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Monday, December 10, 2012

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BLADE WONDER

WITH THE WORLD JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SET TO START IN RUSSIA THIS MONTH, MAPLE LEAFS PROSPECT MORGAN RIELLY WILL BE ONE TO WATCH PAGE 38

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BLOWN AWAY BY CARRIE

Country-music queen Carrie Underwood proves that her Blown Away Tour has legs at the Air Canada Centre on Sunday. Underwood announced she will be donating one dollar from each ticket sold on the North American leg of her first world tour to support Red Cross disaster relief. TOM PANDI/FOR METRO

Mayor's board picks sent to allies: Emails

Ford's short list. Three councillors say their assistants never showed them the list

Three allies of Mayor Rob Ford who helped choose citizen appointees for city agencies stood at council in October to say they knew nothing of a mayor's list of preferred candidates.

"Making up lists!" Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti thundered, scolding city ombudsman Fiona Crean for including evidence of one in her report on the appointment process.

But emails obtained by Torstar News Service reveal that assistants of councillors Mammoliti, Michael Thompson and Jaye Robinson were all sent "the mayor's choices for short-listing tomorrow" — 30 names for boards of six agencies — by Pina Martino, then Ford's special adviser on issues management, on July 17, 2011.

Mammoliti, Thompson and Robinson all say now they never saw the list, that their assistants never forwarded it to them. The assistants all say they have no recollection of the email, although one retrieved it from his account upon request.

Whether they saw the list or not, Coun. Janet Davis says the fact the mayor's office sent the names shows it was trying to influence a process designed to be free of cronyism.

City council eventually confirmed committee recommendations for 13 of the people on Martino's list of names for a board of a city agency, board or commission.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"This demonstrates that the mayor was attempting to influence the members of the committee. The appointments and the outcome of those appointments prove that he was successful in doing so."

Coun. Janet Davis

Open season for flu bug

Get out your flu fighters: The virus is here a little earlier than last year PAGE 4

Monkeyshines at Ikea

A nattily dressed primate charmed shoppers at the North York store on Sunday PAGE 12

Something to celebrate

Vancouver electronic duo Japandroids on their latest album, Celebration Rock PAGE 26

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Firearms bureau

New agent to track gun links

Special Agent Regina Lombardo
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When a bullet kills or harms someone in Toronto, one of the first questions asked is where the gun came from.

If the weapon is thought to be American, a Toronto-based U.S. special agent pairs Canadian police with U.S. authorities to discern how it got here.

For the past seven years, that agent was Regina Lombardo. This month, a new agent — Special Agent Peter Forcelli — took her place with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which has the authority to get U.S. firearm makers to provide sales records.

Police have said 70 per cent of guns seized after crimes were smuggled from the U.S. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Elementary schools

Rotating teacher strikes begin

Elementary school teachers in York Region will hold a one-day walkout on Thursday as rotating strikes begin across the province.

Thousands of high school students across the province will also walk out of class on Monday to demand an end to the labour dispute that means their teachers will boycott all extracurricular activities.

Their message to both the province and the teachers' federation: Put the kids first.

At R.H. King Academy, a rally Monday will call for an end to Bill 115.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Showdown over cop budget begins

Spending freeze.
Police chief has cut an additional $2.3 million from proposed budget ahead of a special meeting

A showdown over the police budget is set to resume Monday after a pared-down version still hangs $19.1 million over a recommended city-wide spending freeze.

At a special meeting of the police services board Monday night, the debate is expected to come to a head over a new report submitted by Chief Bill Blair after the board refused to approve a previous incarnation at its regularly-scheduled Nov. 14 meeting.

The board asked Blair to consider additional cost-cutting measures to reach the city's target of a zero per cent increase — including no new uniform recruitment in 2013.

Blair's revised operating budget is set at $946.9 million — a 2 per cent increase — a figure he said is necessary to avoid a staffing reduction that would "seriously impact the service's ability to provide adequate and effective public-safety services to the City of Toronto."

Blair has previously said meeting the city's cap on spending would mean laying off 137 uniformed officers and 52 civilians to save $11.8 million.

As the city moves to freeze all spending to operate a $9.4-billion budget, and city staff are recommending a 1.95 per cent tax hike, the Ford administration is championing the cost-cutting approach.

"We are now close to fiscal sustainability in this city because of the mayor's leadership and the budget chief's leadership," Coun. Doug Ford, budget committee vice-chair, said at a recent committee meeting.

As part of an earlier budget analysis, police reported a 9 per cent increase in murders from 2011, but a marked decrease in assaults, robberies and thefts in the same period.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The changes

The new submission cuts $2.3 million off the previous budget request, which Chief Bill Blair said was achieved by cancelling an 80-member recruit class for April 2013.

- The new figure will allow the service to maintain 5,320 officers next year, police say — well below the allowed 5,604-strong deployment and 80 short of the 5,400 benchmark Blair said he could operate within.

Canuck Hanukkah

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan lights the ice menorah in front of members of his congregation in Thornhill on Sunday, the second night of Hanukkah. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the second century BC. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Mob shooting

Hit man due to be released from jail

A hit man who sprayed a North York sandwich shop with bullets in a 2004 botched mob shooting that left an innocent woman paralyzed is set to be released from prison this week.

Antonio (Jelly) Borrelli was sentenced in 2006 to 10 years for attempted murder, conspiracy to commit aggravated assault and firearms charges.

Antonio Borrelli CONTRIBUTED/CBC/THE FIFTH ESTATE

None of the bullets hit their intended targets — who Borrelli mistakenly believed were outside the shop — but one struck Louise Russo, 45, shattering her spine.

Borrelli is due for statutory release, a type of discharge that most federal inmates get automatically after serving two-thirds of their sentence. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On the air

Ford stands by fire-hall closure

Based on his belief that it's not needed, Mayor Rob Ford has defended closing a west-end fire hall.

Ford's remarks came during his Sunday radio talk show, the day before citizens were to descend on city hall to have their say on fire cuts and other elements of the city's proposed $9.4-billion 2013 operating budget.

The closure at 462 Runnymede Rd. is part of a cost-saving plan that includes taking five fire trucks out of service and axing 104 vacant positions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Midtown

Man sought in hit-and-run

Toronto police have identified a suspect wanted in an alleged hit-and-run that saw three pedestrians injured Friday when a car mounted a sidewalk near Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue.

One person was sent to hospital with minor injuries.

Police say in a release that 47-year-old Steven Brunswick is sought on charges including theft of a vehicle and dangerous driving.

He is described as white, six-foot-one and 220 pounds with grey-black hair and a heavy build. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flu season off to early start, just in time for holidays

Health. Since it takes two weeks for body to develop antibodies that fight flu, now would be good time to get vaccinated: Doctor

Deck the medicine cabinet with antiviral drugs — the flu season is upon us and its arrival has come a little earlier than it did last year.

Compared to 2011, there's been a sizeable jump in the number of Ontarians who have tested positive for influenza this season, which began Sept. 1.

For the week ending Nov. 24, there were 126 new positive results reported, which brought the total number of cases for this season to 1,085. Only 42 new cases were reported during the same week last year, for a total of 761 cases.

"Last year was a fairly late start to the influenza season, whereas this year, this can probably be characterized as a little bit of an early start," explained Dr. Colin Lee, acting medical director, communicable diseases, with Public Health Ontario.

He was careful to add this earlier start isn't out of the ordinary. The flu season typically begins in late autumn or early winter.

As of Dec. 5, there were 33 lab-confirmed cases of flu in the City of Toronto this season, which is in the normal range, according to Toronto Public Health.

Dr. Eileen de Villa, associate medical officer of health for Peel Region, said there were 31 lab-confirmed cases of influenza from Sept. 1 to Dec. 5, which is lower than in recent years.

York Region has six lab-confirmed cases, up from none at this time last year.

So far this year, all three areas have said that compared to last year, fewer people have been showing up to their free flu-shot clinics.

However, the decreased turnout may be explained by factors such as the temporary suspension of Novartis-brand vaccines, while others may have gone to their family doctors or pharmacists to get their shots. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

3

Lee noted this year's flu shot provides "really good protection" against the three main strains of influenza that have been making the rounds so far.

Leah Guegueirre, 4, grimaces as Toronto Public Health's Gail Stergios gives her a flu shot, while brother Andrew and mom Lindsay look on at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Friday. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Labour. Doctors back deal to trim costs

Ontario doctors have endorsed a new deal with the province that will see some services scaled back and others modernized in order to find savings.

The Ontario Medical Association says the agreement was accepted by 81 per cent of the nearly 21,000 doctors who voted by phone or online.

The OMA says the deal, worth $11.1 billion a year, will trim spending by $400 million through a half-a-per-cent payment cut for all doctors while modernizing how services are delivered.

But Health Minister Deb Matthews has said total payments to physicians will rise by $100 million as new doctors are brought on, an increase that will be offset by cost savings.

The changes to services include shortening the length of time of annual physicals and the number of tests done on healthy adult patients.

The OMA says the agreement, effective from last Oct. 1 until March 31, 2014, will pump new money into house calls to seniors and high-need patients. It also says the deal announced Sunday will let patients speak to doctors more easily through "e-consultations."

A tentative agreement was reached last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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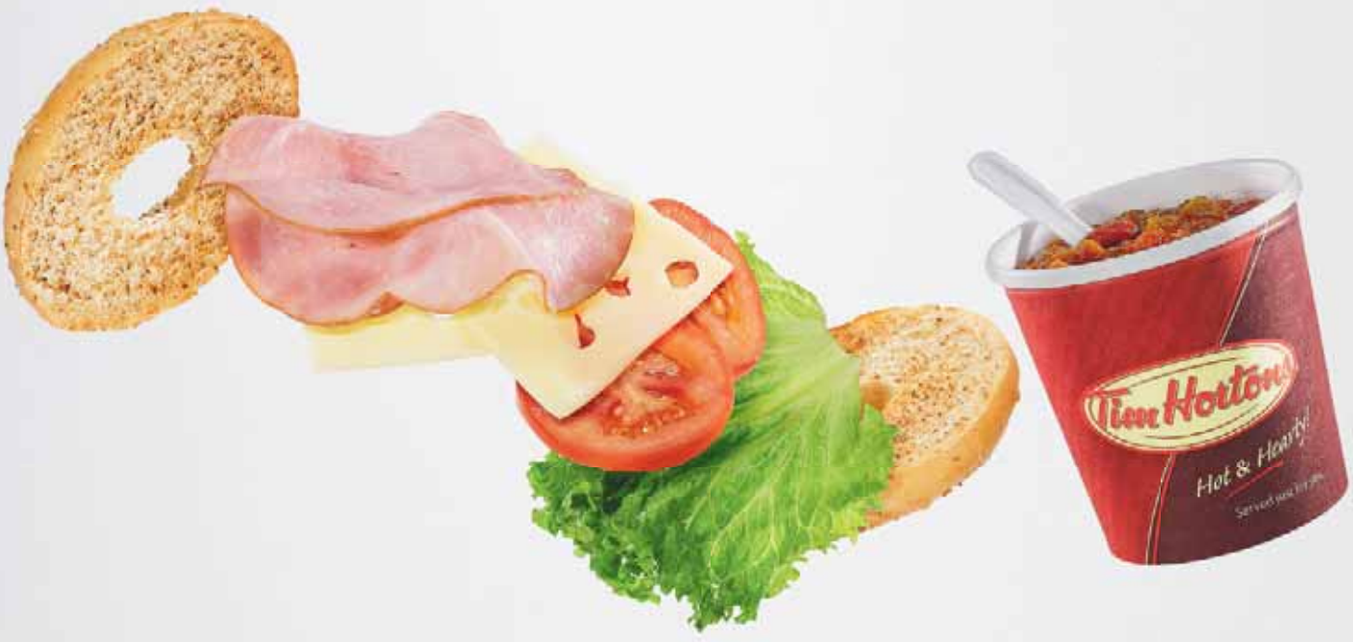

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Winnipegger's new life includes happy children, bullet-riddled homes

Middle East. Young woman says both sides in conflict just want to live in peace

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON
For Metro in Winnipeg

For Emma Bergen, 19, the hardest part of visiting a Palestinian refugee camp is seeing the bullet holes piercing the walls and doors of the homes of the young children with whom she works.

"It didn't occur to me that anyone would shoot at a family's home," said Bergen.

"It's disturbing to know the children and their families have lived through house invasions and violence, and to see proof of it permanently in their doors and walls.

"It shocks me, because if someone can do this to a family's home, where does it end?"

About a month after graduating from Westgate Mennonite Collegiate in Winnipeg this past June, she moved with her family to Jerusalem.

Twice a week, Bergen leaves Jerusalem for Aida camp — a United Nations refugee camp in Bethlehem home to about 4,700 people squeezed into less than a square kilometre.

The camp has just one food-distribution centre, no health centres, and a single school. With no streetlights and sporadic electricity, refugees spend their nights in the dark.

But for Bergen, a children's centre within the camp is a place she has found joy and acceptance.

"I bring supplies like chalk, pastels, pencil crayons and paint, and together with the children, we colour, draw and trace.

"I love to be in the atmosphere where the children can be children," she said. "I feel accepted by them, and it shows in the way they pull me over to their parents and introduce me in Arabic."

The children are third- and fourth-generation refugees who have never known life outside the camp. Israelis have settled land in the West Bank that the Palestinians claim as theirs.

But Bergen hasn't witnessed bitterness or hate in the children with whom she works.

"The children are joyful and full of acceptance. They love to play and make friends," she said.

The children's centre where Bergen volunteers is the product of Palestinian parents who realized that refugee-camp life was stealing away childhood from their young ones.

One thing that helps Bergen cope with what she witnesses in the camp is talking about her experiences with people on both sides of the fighting.

"There are a lot of Israelis who want a peaceful end to the conflict too," she said.

"I'm not even in this situation, and it gets me so angry. But they continue to strive for peace, and it's inspiring."

Emma Bergen, centre, at the children's centre in a Palestinian refugee camp, where she volunteers twice a week. HANDOUT/METRO

Quoted

"I've never heard a Palestinian person say they want to kick Israel off their land. They want to live together in peace."

Emma Bergen, 19, who recently moved to Jerusalem with her family

Commitment key to bridge West Bank barrier

Joanna and Dan Bergen moved with their two daughters from Wolseley to Jerusalem to work with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in July. They have committed to stay for a three-year term.

The couple oversees MCC's peace-building programs between Israeli and Palestinian people and poverty-reduction programs in Gaza and the West Bank.

Dan is on leave from teaching high school in the Winnipeg School Division and Joanna previously worked as MCC's HIV-AIDS program co-ordinator.

Emma Bergen stands with Salah Ajarma, a founder of the children's centre, at the entrance to the refugee camp. On the right is the wall. HANDOUT/METRO

The recent surge in violent conflict between Hamas and Israel hasn't made them regret their decision to move.

"The reality of working in Israel/Palestine is that things can 'flare up' at any time, and we knew that going in," said Joanna. "We don't feel any differently now than when we first agreed to live and work here."

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON/FOR METRO

All along the watchtower

Drawing the line

While there's joy and laughter in the children's centre, more menacing things reveal themselves.

"Sometimes when I ask the children to draw something, they draw the wall," said Emma Bergen.

The wall refers to the 670-kilometre-long barrier Israel began constructing in 2002 in and around the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli government said the wall is necessary to protect its citizens from Palestinian militants.

Palestinian friends tell Bergen the wall cuts them off from their farmland, water sources and family members.

It's something Bergen sees every day when she's at the camp. The wall, with a military watchtower overhead, is right outside the children's centre.

"You walk by and you know that you're being watched. You know someone is always looking down on you, and they think of you as a threat," she said.

"It feels demeaning."

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON/FOR METRO

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Pipeline. Documents show review was influenced by oil industry: Greenpeace

A review of pipeline safety commissioned by the Alberta government after a series of high-profile accidents was heavily influenced by industry and designed more to quiet public concern than improve the system, say Greenpeace campaigners.

They say documents obtained under Freedom of Information legislation suggest the terms of the review were OK'd in advance by pipeline company officials.

"There's a difference between talking to industry and asking for their approval," said Greenpeace energy spokesman Keith Stewart. "It looks like industry got to write the terms for this review."

But Energy Minister Ken Hughes said a meeting held between department staff and a broad array of pipeline industry representatives before the review was announced was to let them know he meant business.

"I called the meeting to convey a strong sense of urgency and a strong sense of reflection and investigation," said Hughes.

The report is expected later this month. No public input process has been determined, Hughes said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil spills

The Alberta government asked for the technical safety review last summer following three pipeline-related spills.

- **Red Deer River.** In one of those spills, a Plains Midstream Canada pipeline leaked about 475,000 litres of oil into the Red Deer River, a major drinking-water source for central Alberta.

Manitoba hogs. Chief vet to review footage of inhumane pig treatment

The office of Manitoba's chief veterinarian says it has received and will review footage of treatment of pigs at a hog farm that has sparked accusations of animal abuse.

Animal Health and Welfare Manager Terry Whiting says video footage taken at a Puratone Corp. pig farm in Arborg, Man., was received by the office Friday, but couldn't comment on whether an investigation has been launched.

The footage shows pigs bleeding in metal cages from open wounds, pregnant pigs with distended, inflamed bellies, and piglets being slammed down on the floor by staff.

The video was released online and to CTV's W5 by animal-rights group Mercy For Animals Canada, which says it was shot by an undercover investigator this year.

Neither Puratone or Maple Leaf Foods Inc., which bought Puratone last month, were immediately available for comment Sunday.

But Puratone Chief Executive Officer Ray Hildebrand provided a statement to W5 saying the company has launched an investigation.

"We are disturbed by some of the images shown in this video, which do not reflect our principles or our animal welfare policy and operating procedures," said the statement, posted on CTV's website. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recurring illness

Chavez in Cuba for cancer treatment

Hugo Chavez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was heading back to Cuba on Sunday for more cancer surgery after announcing that the illness returned despite two previous operations: chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Chavez acknowledged the seriousness of his health situation in a televised address Saturday night, saying for the first time that if he suffers complications, Vice-President Nicolas Maduro should be elected as Venezuela's leader to continue his socialist movement.

The 58-year-old president is still scheduled to be sworn in for a new six-year term Jan. 10. He has been in office for nearly 14 years, since 1999. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mandela in hospital as his party faces leadership crisis

Former South African president Nelson Mandela leaves a chapel after attending the funeral of his great-granddaughter Zenani Mandela in Johannesburg. South African President Jacob Zuma says that Mandela has been admitted to hospital in Pretoria to undergo tests. SIPHIWE SIBEKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Fighting spirit. Former South African president, 94, has battled tuberculosis, prostate cancer

Inside a Catholic church that once served as a major rallying point for anti-apartheid activists, the image of a grey-suited Nelson Mandela appears in a stained-glass window that also features angels and the cross.

Worshippers here prayed Sunday for the hospitalized 94-year-old former president, who remains almost a secular saint and a father figure to many in South Africa, a nation of 50 million people that has Africa's top economy.

Mandela's admission to the hospital this weekend for unspecified medical tests sparked screaming newspaper headlines and ripples of fear in the public that the frail leader is fading further away.

And as his African National Congress political party stands ready to pick its leader, who likely will be the nation's next president, some believe governing party politicians have abandoned Mandela's integrity and magnanimity in a seemingly unending string of corruption scandals. That leaves many wondering who can lead the country the way the ailing Mandela once did.

On Saturday, the office of President Jacob Zuma announced Mandela had been admitted to a Pretoria hospital for medical tests and care that was "consistent for his age."

Zuma visited Mandela on Sunday morning at the hospital and found the former leader to be "comfortable and in good care," presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leading by example

"When you have someone that's willing to lead by example like he did, it makes things easier for people to follow."

Church-goer Thabile Manana

Holiday spirit shouldn't be 'grinched': Clement

Treasury Board president Tony Clement says public servants want to be in the Christmas or Hanukkah spirit this time of year and should not feel they're offending anyone by decorating their offices with a little holiday cheer.

But for the 8,000 federal workers left on the chopping block, there might not be a reason to grab the tinsel.

Clement said in an interview with Metro Sunday that 11,000 positions have been cut from the budget as the government approaches its target of 19,000. Most of them were eliminated through attrition, he said.

Following a statement he issued Sunday reminding employees there are no guidelines against decorating their offices for the holidays, Clement told Metro he disagreed with the suggestion that some employees wouldn't be in the festive mood because of the budget cuts.

"The federal government is an excellent workplace for our employees and we believe in our employees, but we also are accountable to the taxpayer," said Clement. "I think everybody understands that."

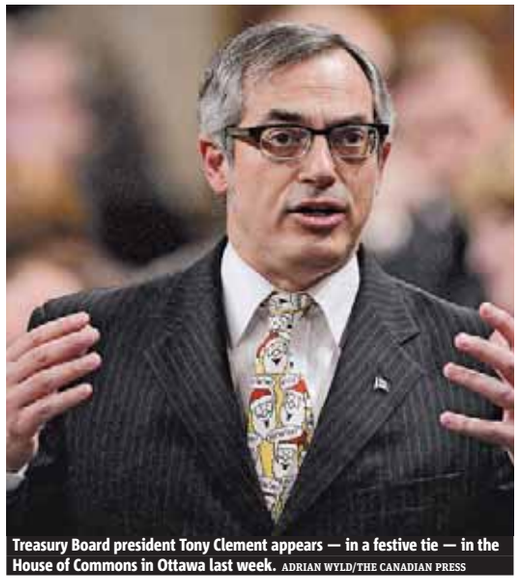
Clement, sticking firmly on message, said people wanted to exercise their faith, and political correctness should not trump holiday spirit.

"Our government will not allow the Christmas spirit to be grinched," he said in the statement.

What prompted the statement, he said, was last year's "confusion" after Service Canada advised its workers in Quebec not to decorate offices in public display. Human Resources Minister Diane Finley swiftly reversed that directive.

As for his own office, he said you'll find some Christmas cards and a couple of "Santa things" on his desk. He also made sure to mention his "Tony's 12 ties of Christmas" poll on his website before the interview ended.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA



Treasury Board president Tony Clement appears — in a festive tie — in the House of Commons in Ottawa last week. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP

Police officers, doctor deny allegations in harassment lawsuit

The police officers named in Cpl. Catherine Galliford's sexual harassment lawsuit against the RCMP have all denied her allegations in statements of defence, following the lead of the federal government, which issued its own blanket denial earlier this year.

Galliford, a police spokeswoman who worked on the Air India and Robert Pickton cases, filed a lawsuit in May, alleging nearly two decades of harassment and sexual abuse by her colleagues and superiors.

In addition to the RCMP, Galliford's lawsuit also named RCMP officers Const. Marvin Wawia, Supt. Mike Bergerman and Insp. Doug Henderson; Dr. Ian MacDonald, an RCMP-employed physician; and Const. Phil Little, who worked for the Vancouver police but was part of an RCMP investigation.

Galliford first outlined her allegations with media last year, prompting several other female Mounties to come forward with their own stories of abuse — and their own lawsuits. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Santa Claus prepares to treat himself to an early present on hearing the news that a 2013 Jetta is now only $168 a month.
"I'm telling everyone – but not everyone believes in me," **he commented.**

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DJs Mel Grieg and Michael Christian, who apologized for the prank on Tuesday, took down their Twitter accounts after they were bombarded by abusive comments. Rhys Holleran, CEO of Southern Cross Austereo, seen here speaking to media in Melbourne Saturday, said the pair have been offered counselling and are off the air indefinitely. ROBERT CIANFLONE/GETTY IMAGES

London police consider probe of radio station

Royal-hoax fallout. DJs taken off air indefinitely following death of nurse who took their prank call

The reverberations from the death of a nurse who accepted a hoax phone call about the ill Duchess of Cambridge spread through two countries Sunday, as Australian authorities said London police had contacted them about a possible investigation.

The Australian radio station behind the call also announced an immediate review of its broadcast practices after the debacle, which began with a prank call made Tuesday to the hospital where the former Kate Middleton was being treated for acute morning sickness.

The controversial prank took a dark twist three days later with the death of nurse Jacintha Saldanha, a 46-year-old mother of two, who was duped by the DJs despite their Australian accents. The death has sparked an angry backlash against the two DJs.

After an emergency meeting Sunday, Max Moore-Wilton, chairman of Southern Cross Austereo, which owns the 2DayFM radio station, said in a letter to the hospital's chairman that the company will co-operate with any investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thrives on controversy

2DayFM radio station has a history of controversy.

- It once aired a segment in which a 14-year-old girl revealed that she had been raped.
- It also ran Heartless Hotline shows in which disadvantaged people were offered a prize that could be taken away from them by listeners.

Child pornography

Arrests in Spain linked to Toronto

Spanish police have arrested 28 people and charged 10 others in connection with an international child-pornography network allegedly headquartered in Toronto.

DVDs sold though the network via three websites have been distributed to 94 countries, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior said. It said Interpol passed on information from Toronto police about a network selling child-pornography videos based in Toronto that had been in operation since 2004.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Balkans. Blizzards leave 6 dead, chaos on roads

Freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall have killed at least six people and caused travel chaos across the Balkans, with rescue teams struggling to reach passengers stranded in buses and cars in Serbia on Sunday. Officials said four people died in Croatia and two in Serbia.

A woman gave birth to a baby in a stranded truck on her way to a hospital, and named her Snezana, or "Snow White" in Serbian.

By late afternoon, 660 people, including 30 children, were evacuated from stranded vehicles, and army tanks were used to remove heavy trucks that skidded and blocked highways.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman waits at a bus stop in Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday as freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall caused chaos across the Balkans. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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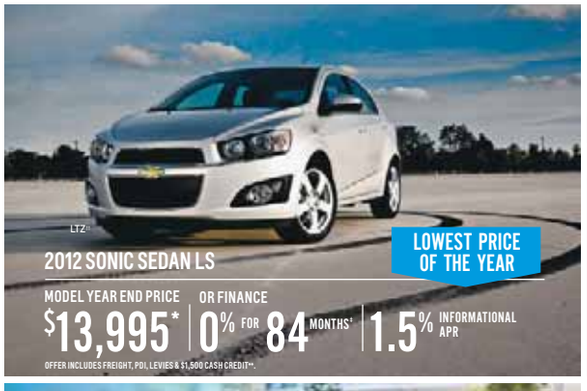

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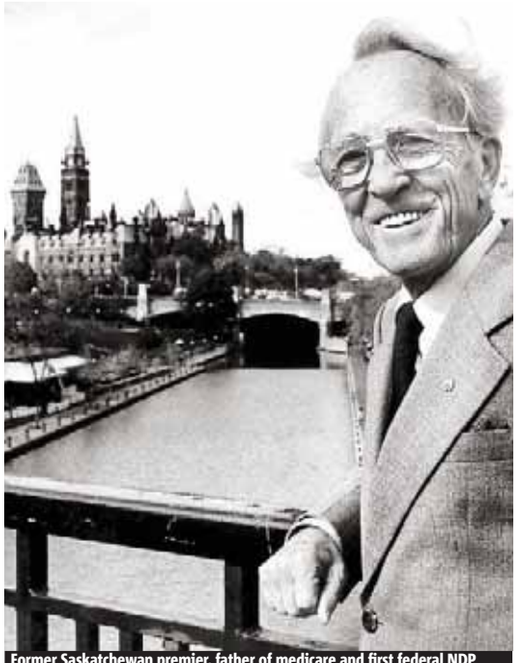
Supreme Court asked to decide on releasing the Douglas file



Former Saskatchewan premier, father of medicare and first federal NDP leader Tommy Douglas in Ottawa in 1983. CHRIS SCHWARZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tommy Douglas.
Should security forever trump our right to see historic documents?

The Supreme Court of Canada is being asked to settle a seven-year battle to lift the shroud of secrecy over a decades-old intelligence dossier on socialist trailblazer Tommy Douglas.

Jim Bronskill, a reporter with The Canadian Press, is seeking leave to appeal the case to the country's highest court. At stake is more than simply gaining access to the intelligence file compiled on Douglas, according to Bronskill's lawyer.

In essence, the top court is being asked to be the final arbiter on whether national security should trump the public's right to see historical documents.

"It is about the balance between history and security and when national security information can and should be withheld," Paul Champ said in an interview. "Our simple position is that information that's gathered for intelligence or national security should not be hidden away from Canadians for all time." So far only about 700 pages of the 1,142 page file have been made public, many heavily censored. The Mounties spied on Douglas from the late 1930s to shortly before his death in 1986. They attended his speeches and protests, analysed his writings, infiltrated private meetings and eavesdropped on conversations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spied on for five decades

Security services seemed particularly interested in Douglas's links to the peace movement and the Communist party.

- They reported on his comments concerning the U.S. civil rights movement, apartheid, labour issues and more.

Just monkeying around.
Stylish primate charms Toronto Ikea shoppers

Twitter pic of the monkey in the North York Ikea's parking garage on Sunday. TWITTER

Even primates can't seem to resist a good bargain.

A North York Ikea store attracted an unusual customer Sunday afternoon, when a tiny monkey dressed in a fitted faux shearling coat and diapers appeared in the store's upper parking garage around 2 p.m.

"It was just running around screaming," said shopper Bronwyn Page. "There was a crowd of us around it and it seemed really scared and agitated."

Security guards at the Ikea near Leslie Street and Highway 401 eventually cornered the animal in the elevator vestibule and called police. Animal Services soon arrived at the store to pick up the stylish bargain-hunter. The diminutive shopper never made it into the store, said manager Alvaro Carmona.

Animal Services identified the monkey as a rhesus macaque, an Asian species that is prohibited in Ontario.

The owner of the primate turned himself in to Animal Services just after 5 p.m. He was charged with owning a prohibited animal, an offence that carries a $200 fine.

The seven-month-old monkey somehow managed to escape his owner's car in the Ikea parking lot, said animal control officer David Behan.

Behan said the owner was cooperative in signing over the primate to Animal Services. The man's name has not been released.

As for the half-metre tall simian, he is in good health and will likely be transferred to a sanctuary. "The monkey was in a bit of shock, but it's calmed down now that we've been feeding it some grapes," an animal services representative said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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A message from CUPE Local 2497

CUPE / Local 2497

591–G.608

A protester jumps as Egyptian army soldiers stand guard in front of the presidential palace in Cairo, Sunday. Egypt's liberal opposition called for more protests, seeking to keep up the momentum of its street campaign after the president made a concession overnight, but refused its main demand to rescind a draft constitution going to a referendum. HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt opposition urges more protests against referendum

Divided country. Draft charter fails to outlaw gender discrimination, and has restrictive clauses on freedom of expression

Egypt's opposition said Sunday it will keep up protests against a referendum on a disputed draft constitution, but stopped short of advocating either a boycott or a "no" vote less than a week before the ballot.

The opposition was still pushing for Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to cancel the Dec. 15 referendum, saying they reject the process entirely and refuse to call it legitimate.

The referendum over a disputed draft constitution has deeply polarized Egypt and sparked some of the bloodiest clashes between Morsi supporters and opponents since he came to power in June.

As a concession to his opponents, he rescinded decrees he issued last month granting him almost unrestricted powers, giving himself and the panel that drafted the constitution immunity from judicial oversight.

The decrees sparked mass protests. Supporters said they were issued initially to protect the disputed constitution from numerous court challenges.

Rushing the approval of the constitution in a late-night session in the panel further inflamed those who claim Morsi and his Islamist allies, including the Muslim Brotherhood, are monopolizing power and trying to force their agenda into practice.

The opposition sent hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets in unprecedented mass rallies for the largely secular groups, which led the popular uprising last year that toppled President Hosni Mubarak.

This prompted protests by Morsi supporters and sparked bouts of street battles that left at least six people dead and hundreds wounded.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shariah law

The draft charter was adopted despite a last-minute walkout by liberal and Christian members of the Constituent Assembly. The document would open the door to Egypt's most extensive implementation of Shariah, or Islamic, law, enshrining a say for Muslim clerics in legislation, making civil rights subordinate to Shariah and broadly allowing the state to protect "ethics and morals."

Statehood fallout

Abbas appeals to allies for bailout

The Palestinian president is urging Arab nations to provide major financial assistance to cover a new monthly $100 million budgetary shortfall after UN recognition of Palestinian claims to statehood — the result of a punitive Israeli measure. The appeal by Mahmoud Abbas reflects the severe financial fallout from last month's landmark vote in the UN. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International pressure

North Korea may stall rocket launch

North Korea could postpone the controversial launch of a long-range rocket that had been slated for liftoff as early as this week, state media said Sunday, as international pressure on Pyongyang to cancel the provocative move intensified.

Pyongyang calls the launch a peaceful bid to send an observational satellite into space — its second attempt this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EU leaders arrive in Norway to pick up Nobel prize

Nobel Peace Prize.
Harsh criticism from many over choice of European Union

European Union leaders on Sunday hailed the achievements of the 27-nation bloc, but acknowledged they need more integration and authority to solve problems, including its worst financial crisis, as they arrived in Norway to pick up this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Conceding that the EU lacked sufficient powers to stop the devastating 1992-95 Bosnia war, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that the absence of such authority at the time is "one of the most powerful arguments for a stronger European Union."

Barroso spoke to reporters with EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy and the president of the EU Parliament, Martin Schulz, in Oslo, where the three leaders were to receive this year's award, granted to the European Union for fostering peace on a continent ravaged by war.

Nobel committee chairman Thorbjoern Jagland will present the prize, worth $1.2 million, at a ceremony in Oslo City Hall, followed by a banquet at the Grand Hotel, against a backdrop of demonstrations in this EU-skeptic country that has twice rejected joining the union.

About 20 European government leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, will be joining the ceremonies. They will be celebrating far away from the EU's financial woes in a prosperous nation of five million on the outskirts of Europe.

The decision to award the prize to the EU has sparked harsh criticism, including from three peace laureates including Archbishop Desmond Tutu. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legally wed in Seattle

Jesse Page, left, kisses new spouse Brendon Taga on Sunday in the King County courthouse. Gay marriages began on Sunday in Washington state after a voter-approved law legalized gay marriage.
ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Diego

Architect awaits drug sentence

Eugenio Velazquez doesn't fit the mould of the down-on-his-luck, uneducated, underemployed courier who ferries drugs to the U.S. for Mexican drug cartels.

The dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico belongs to Tijuana's elite, equally at ease on both sides of the border. He had a flourishing career designing some of San Diego's most prominent buildings over the last decade, including its new main cathedral, an expansion of a major cultural centre and even the police headquarters. Velazquez, 51, awaits sentencing Monday for trying to smuggle 5.8 kilograms of cocaine into the States.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Residents affected by Typhoon Bopha crowd around as relief goods are distributed at New Bataan township, Compostela Valley, in the southern Philippines Sunday. BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Typhoon's death toll rises in the Philippines

Search and rescue. After the storm slammed into the Philippines, hundreds are reported killed, many still missing

The number of people missing after a typhoon devastated parts of the southern Philippines jumped to nearly 900 after families and fishing companies reported losing contact with more than 300 fishermen at sea, officials said Sunday.

The fishermen from southern General Santos city and nearby Sarangani province left a few days before Typhoon Bopha hit the main southern island of Mindanao on Tuesday, triggering flash floods that killed more than 600, Civil Defence chief Benito Ramos said.

Ramos said the fishermen were headed to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and to the Pacific Ocean. He said there has been no contact from them for a week.

"We have declared them missing," he said. "Maybe they are still alive."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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London. Students look for public support to get bus service licensed

After being forced to cease operations and give refunds to more than 400 customers last week, the London Rocket is looking to make a comeback in early 2013.

The Queen's University students who founded the bus service between London and the Greater Toronto Area are planning to pursue an operating license from the Ontario Highway Transport Board (OHTB).

For that to happen, people need to sign an online petition at londonrocket.ca, service co-founder Darren Cole says.

"One of the criteria (of the OHTB) is to show that there is a public need," he said. "We know that there is a need, and now we need (customers) to sign the petition to show that they support us."

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Not easy to compete

- After Darren Cole and business partner Bill Mei went public with their plans to launch the Rocket, Greyhound sent them a letter saying it is the only company licensed to provide scheduled public transit between London and Toronto.
- Greyhound said it would seek a cease-and-desist order from the OHTB if the Rocket wasn't cancelled.

War tribunal accuses Economist of hacking

Bangladesh. Inquiry asks news magazine to explain how it got hold of judge's emails and Skype discussions

A Bangladesh war crimes tribunal has accused the British magazine The Economist of hacking the computer of its presiding judge to record conversations and read emails he exchanged with a lawyer.

The magazine did not directly address the charges, but said it was in possession of conversations and documents that raised serious questions about the workings of the tribunal.

The tribunal is trying 10 opposition politicians on charges of arson, rape and other atrocities committed during the country's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan.

Bangladesh says that during the war, Pakistani troops, aided by their local collaborators, killed three million people and raped about 200,000 women.

In an order passed last week, the tribunal accused The Economist of computer hacking and asked it to explain how it got emails and heard Skype conversations between Presiding Judge Mohammed Nizamul Huq and Ahmed Ziauddin, a lawyer of Bangladeshi origin living in Brussels, Belgium.

Saturday's issue of The Economist
METRO

In an article published Saturday, The Economist said it has heard 17 hours of recorded telephone conversations and seen over 230 emails between Huq and Ziauddin. "These emails, if genuine, would indeed raise questions about the working of the court and we are bound to investigate them as fully as we can," the article said.

The Economist rejected the tribunal's demand that the emails and recorded conversations be returned to it without being published.

"This material is confidential and we are bound by law and the British press's Code of Conduct not to reveal such information except in matters of the most serious public interest. We did not solicit the material, nor pay for it, nor commit ourselves to publish it," it said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The power of Christmas

People gather to look at Christmas lights that adorn a house in Melksham, England, on Saturday. The lights have returned to the town after a two-year absence and have raised thousands of pounds for charity. The display, which is worth about $50,000, is thought to involve more than 100,000 bulbs. It takes a team of electricians five weeks to complete, and needs an up-rated electricity supply installed to cope with the additional power requirements. Inset, people react to a flurry of flakes generated by a snow machine outside the display. MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

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Wireless code of conduct

CRTC gets earful about 36-month cell contracts

Three-year contracts from cellphone companies should be banned, Canada's telecom regulator has been told in submissions to an online consultation.

Hundreds of people submitted their opinions to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission about a proposed code of conduct for the country's wireless industry. The overwhelming majority who wrote to the CRTC over the two-week online consultation period passionately voiced concerns about being "held hostage" by 36-month contracts.

The first round of consultations, which closed this week, also heard several complaints about a lack of competition in the industry.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holiday season

Rushing to mail your presents? So is everyone else

If you were thinking this is the week to finally mail out your Christmas cards or make a gift purchase online then you're not alone.

Canada Post expects Thursday will be its busiest day of the year. And FedEx is targeting Monday globally as its highest-volume day of 2012. Canada Post estimates the holiday rush will see it deliver about one billion cards, letters and packages.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GRAPPLING WITH THE GARDINER

URBAN COMPASS
Matt Elliott
toronto@metronews.ca

The proverbial lump of coal in Toronto's stocking this year? As much as a half-billion-dollar repair bill for the crumbling Gardiner Expressway.

As part of their 2013 budget debate, council is considering ratcheting up their annual maintenance spending on the lakeside highway from $10 million to more than $50 million a year over the next 10 years. Under the new proposal, about 17 cents of every dollar spent on transportation projects over the next decade will go toward rehabbing the highway.

Meanwhile, the other 5,600 kilometres of roadway in Toronto are actually projected to deteriorate as efforts are focused on the 18-kilometre Gardiner. The capital plan shows the repair for major roads across Toronto increasing by a factor of three between now and 2022. And those roads are important — for all the attention it gets, a 2009 study revealed that only eight per cent of inbound morning commuters used the Gardiner to get downtown.

Spending is the wrong way

The numbers don't lie. This highway's a money pit.

The numbers don't lie. This highway's a money pit.

Debates about the future of the Gardiner always give way to trumped-up hysteria about the "war on the car." But costs have gotten so out of control that this is no longer a debate about urbanism or mobility. It's about money. Full stop.

Fans of the expressway status quo will point to the lack of alternatives. And they've got a point. It's not as if current service levels on GO Transit or the TTC can accommodate many more bodies at rush hour. And unless the plan is to break out the bulldozers Sim City-style, we're not going to be able to expand other roads, even if we wanted to.

So what's the answer? Two things.

First, the city should return to a 2009 study on tearing down or modifying the section of the highway east of Jarvis Street — a study that mysteriously stalled after Mayor Rob Ford took office. This stretch, which was engineered with extra capacity for expansion that never happened, accounts for more than $200 million of the total repair forecast. To even consider spending money rehabbing this section with the study incomplete is downright irresponsible.

Second, let's look to road tolls as a means of paying for repairs on any parts of the highway we can't afford to lose. Not only will this leave room in the city's capital plan for more important projects, it'll also make things more equitable.

Since even before Premier Mike Harris downloaded more highway costs to the municipality in the '90s, 905-ers haven't been paying their fair share — it's high time for everyone who uses the highway to pay up.

At the very least, the solution can't be to just move forward blindly.

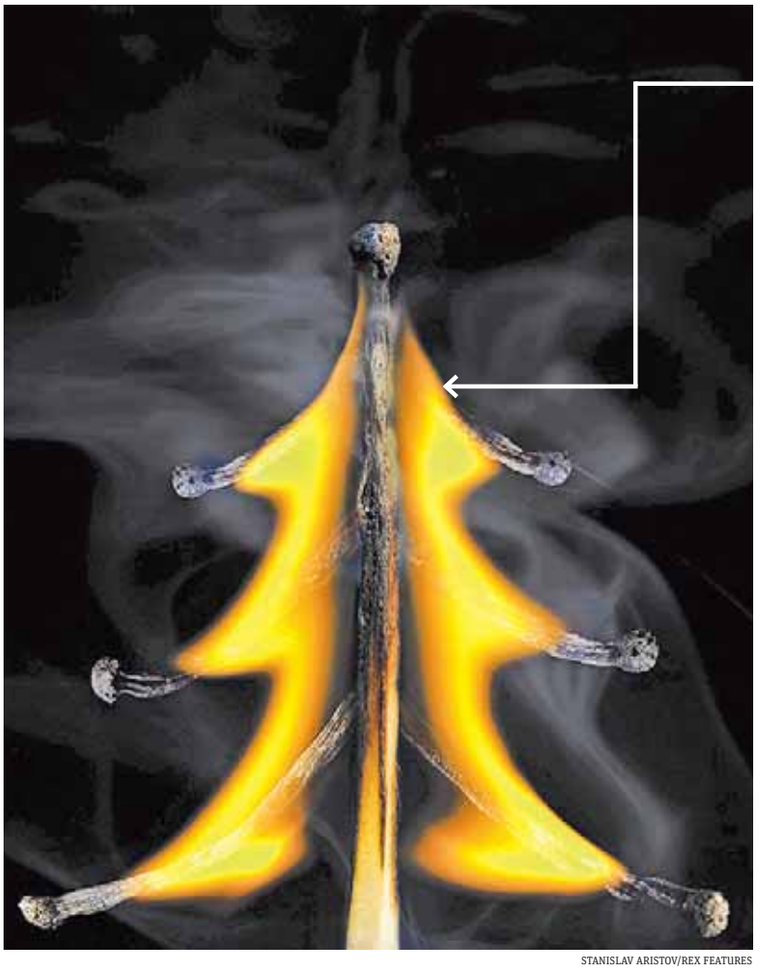
Toronto's got to take its foot off the gas and consider where this road is taking us.

Read more of Matt's blog, Ford for Toronto, at metronews.ca

That structure looming over Lower Jarvis is the Gardiner Expressway. Despite a 2009 study that says only eight per cent of morning commuters use the highway, council is considering increasing annual maintenance spending from $10 million to over $50 million in the next ten years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The Christmas tree is on fire!



STANISLAV ARISTOV/REX FEATURES

Match art photography

This art is literally smoking hot

Some bright spark has set the art world alight and created this festive image using spent matches and fire.

Stanislav Aristov, 30, makes miniature sculptures like this one by bending the matches into the desired shape while they are burning and then, using a macro lens and studio flash, he takes the photograph.

METRO

Artist's viewpoint

"There is burnt for the past, the smoke of memories left and the untouched part of the match the future. The fire is the life."

Stanislav Aristov, 30, IT specialist and part-time artist from Ekaterinburg, Russia

Accidental beginnings

How he had his eureka moment

Like many ingenious creations, Aristov's art came about by accident. Unable to come up with an idea, Aristov struck a match before noticing the incredible patterns formed in the carbon of the used wood — and so match art was born.

"It was while I was watching the match trying to think of something that I began to think of how it represents life," Aristov said.

METRO

Characteristics

Art produces 'very freakish forms'

For Aristov, the key characteristic of his match art is its unexpected shapes and composition, despite its use of a rather ordinary object.

"Matches, of course, are quite a usual object, but it turned out (they) can be presented in very unusual ways," the artist said.

"Fire, as well as smoke, sometimes swirls in very freakish forms, which bring very interesting associations." METRO

Match art in numbers

200

is the number of camera shots Aristov sometimes requires in order to capture the perfect match art composition. Aristov's amazing images include a smoky butterfly, a dangling spider, crawling lizard and a burning heart.

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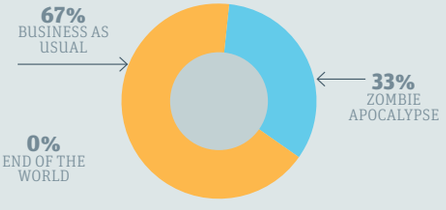
What's your prediction for Dec. 21, 2012?



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@mattdaly: Whenever it snows outside I automatically feel 204% more cozy

@LITLclothingCo: Congrats to Marquez but we still got mad love for Manny. Great fight.

@tcote: "So the tsunami that hit the Philippines is replicated here by the tsunami of Juan Manuel Marquez's right hand!" That's awful, HBO. Awful.

@stephmcpherson: Happy happppy hanukkah!

@alwaystrekking The #IkeaMonkey must be a hoax, nobody is that well dressed when they shop at Ikea on a Sunday.

@BallazJ7 Raptors need to get their s–t together.

metro

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Fewer members presents fewer problems for rising Japandroids

Celebration Rock.
Electronic duo trying to adapt to playing bigger venues after successful new album

LUKE O'NEIL
Metro World News in Boston

Japandroids Dave Prowse and Brian King. HANDOUT

There's no question that electronic dance music has been the primary driving force in music for the past few years.

We would never be so misguided to set up some sort of oppositional binary between DJ culture and traditional rock music (because obviously both can exist peacefully). But if we had to, there's no question which band would go as the first pick in our hypothetical fantasy music draft: Japandroids.

The sound on their acclaimed second record, Celebration Rock, is the Platonic ideal of shouted basement-show punk vehemence, best exemplified by song-of-the-year candidate, The House That Heaven Built.

The Vancouver band's success has found them graduating from the smaller clubs from which their stage-dives and bro-hugs aesthetic was born into much larger rooms, on an exhaustive tour that will bring them for the first time to Australia, Korea and, of course, Japan.

"I feel like we live on the road," drummer and vocalist Dave Prowse says from Tampa, Fla.

"We just tend to tour pretty hard, and not really take a lot of breaks. ... I think because we were kind of a struggling local band for two years, as soon as we got the opportunity to tour and see a lot of places, we had a hard time saying no to anything."

In the early days, working as a duo made that sort of schedule a lot more feasible, he says.

"When we first started, it was us in a Ford explorer. It was a lot easier to make that work with two people. For a variety of reasons, being a two-piece makes logistics easier. Obviously the money, and the fact that there's only one other person you have to come to an agreement with. In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on (the) road for two years."

That doesn't mean that he and guitarist Brian King don't still have their share of disagreements, but having known each other for so long, Prowse says, they're on the same page about most things.

"The thing about being in a two-piece, you can't put anything to a vote, so if you disagree about something, you just have to figure it out. We have pretty similar ideas about lots of kind of trickier situations that bands have to make, with respect to things like licensing music for advertisements or something like that, which is a big thing for a lot of bands. But neither of us are interested in doing that, so it's easy to say no to that. ... Obviously, there are certain moments where we disagree, (but it's) usually about small stuff rather than big stuff, which is probably the reason we're still a band after seven years."

Rise to fame

- **Success.** The higher profile of Celebration Rock has brought with it bigger crowds and a new set of logistical concerns for such an intimate-punk venue style act.
- **Adjusting.** "A big thing for us as a two-piece is trying to fill that space on a stage that big," Prowse says of clubs like the Metro in Chicago or the Fillmore in San Francisco, where they had played before, but never as the headliner. "That's definitely part of the reason why we brought someone in to do lights, just to help give people something to see, especially when you're a little further from the audience. Normally when we tour, we're playing intimate rooms, places that have 500 rather than 1,000 plus. It's a bit of a learning curve for sure."
- **Moving up.** The change in the band's stature has had an effect on how Prowse views the clubs as well. "Coming back to some of those venues, they feel a lot smaller than the first time. They felt so big when I went in there two and a half years ago."

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Autopsy report error

LAPD apologizes to B.I.G.'s family

Police detectives apologized to the family of Notorious B.I.G. for failing to warn them about the planned release of his autopsy report more than 15 years after he died in a drive-by shooting, the Los Angeles Police Department said Saturday.

The detectives had intended to notify the rapper's family, but the report was released prematurely "due to an administrative error," the department said in a statement.

"Our detectives personally spoke with the Wallace family (Friday) night, and apologized for not notifying them prior to the release," said Capt. Billy Hayes, who heads LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division, which is investigating the killing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Titus Andronicus' new album is called Local Business. PHOTO: KYLE DEAN REINFORD}

Titus Andronicus back Local Business

Latest record. With a lean, mean new album, Jersey punk band are bringing listeners up to speed while fighting negativity

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

With the first words that Patrick Stickles sings on Local Business, the recently released third album by Titus Andronicus, it would seem that the album would be over before it's even started.

"OK, I think by now we've established everything is inherently worthless," sings Stickles on opening track, Ecce Homo, before concluding, "there's nothing in the universe with any kind of objective purpose."

But the singer says this opening salvo is not as defeatist as it reads on paper, and that it's more about updating listeners just joining the program.

"I thought it would be a good way to start our discussion, and it was kind of a point that we belabored quite a lot in the first two records," says Stickles, "so you just get everybody up to speed and go on from there."

And where exactly can it go from there?

"Hopefully by the end, the hopeful element of it is a little more explicit," says Stickles, "in that in the void of meaning we are empowered to create meaning."

It seems that Titus have created a lot of meaning with Local Business. The production is leaner and meaner and the lyrical content is more introspective than their last effort. This second feat was almost inevitable though, as Titus' 2010 album, The Monitor, was mostly about the Civil War. Local Business is also the band's first album where the lineup that recorded the songs is the same lineup that has been touring to support it. For the most part, Titus has been made up of Stickles, drummer Eric Harm and a revolving door of other players. Does Stickles feel like this lineup will be the one that's finally in it for the long haul?

"I felt that about all the bands, but it hasn't panned out like that," he says, almost cautiously. "But so far this one is going good."

Hair today, gone tomorrow

• **Beard issue.** When Titus began rising to popularity, one of the visual elements that stood out most was Patrick Stickles' big, bushy beard. He shaved it after the tour for The Monitor, and he says he doesn't miss it. "I just was sick of it. I wanted to move on, live a life without it," he says. "Now I talk about it more, go figure."

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Emmanuelle Chriqui HANDOUT

Star of Entourage and 'desirable woman' Chriqui talks likes, dislikes

Canadian. Movie and TV star, activist and spokesperson — but what talent does she wish she could have?

MIKE BENHAIM
scene@metronews.ca

Emmanuelle Chriqui is the Montreal-born, Toronto-raised star of Entourage and You Don't Mess with the Zohan.

She is currently working on several films between recurring episodes of The Mentalist, and the former AskMen.com's "most desirable woman" is now the face of natural cosmetics brand, Mineral Fusion. Chriqui lends her time to Raise Hope for Congo, is an activist with the Environmental Media Association and is the spokesperson for Colon Cancer Canada, but she took a few moments to meet with her (third) favourite writer:

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Waking with an absolute sense of peace. Grounded, and ready to embrace the day without fear.

What is your greatest extravagance?
A 90 minute massage every day. I don't actually get it, but I would if I could.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
Saving yourself for marriage.

What do you dislike most about your appearance?
More than one thing, but I would have to say my legs. It's like my upper and lower body belong to two different people, and no matter what I do, they don't seem balanced.

Which talent would you most like to have?
I wish I could sing like an R&B diva and play the guitar like Jimmy Hendrix.

What is your most treasured possession?
My father's ring. I can still see his hands.

Now I wear it on a chain around my neck.

What is the quality you most like in a man?
A few things: Confidence without cockiness, a good sense of humour and thoughtfulness.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?
I love a woman that is empowered and in tune with her goddess energy. I find that inspiring.

What do you most value in your friends?
Unconditional love and loyalty. My friends accept that we have different lives, but they don't judge and defend me when someone does.

I try to do the same for them.

Who are your favourite writers?
After Mike Benhaim? Hah! The author who's had the most profound effect on me is probably Paulo Coelho, but I also really enjoy Khaled Hosseini.

He wrote The Kite Runner and 1000 Splendid Suns. Such a powerful storyteller.

Who are your heroes in real life?
That's easy. My dad has always been my hero. He taught me all of life's lessons with his words and actions.

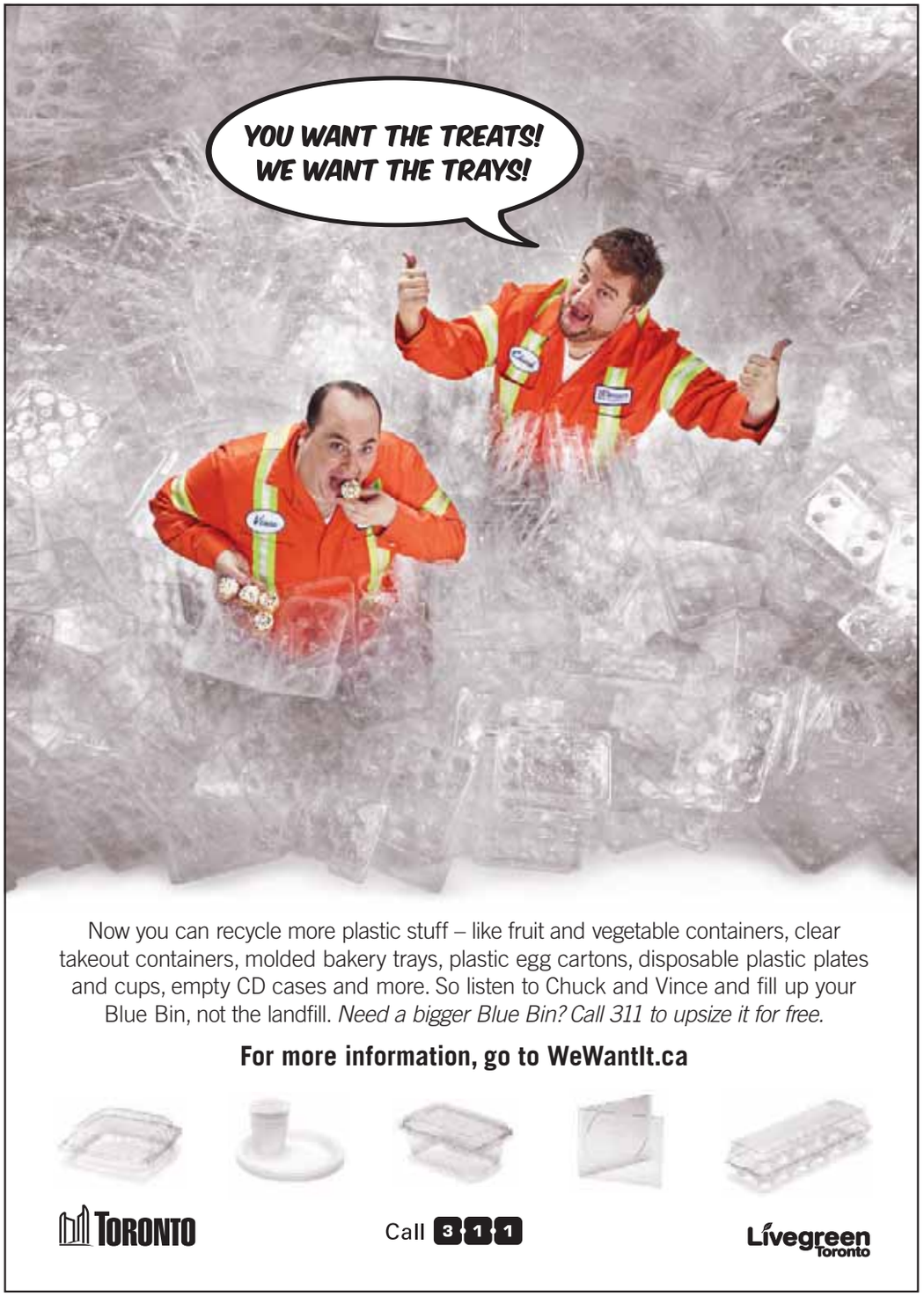
He never complained, greeted the world with a smile and told me to live life fully and unapologetically. The most important qualities I possess, I owe to him.

What is it that you most dislike?
People whose fears keep them from venturing forward and living the life that they are meant to. It's a waste of a precious existence.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Wow. There was a time after my mom died, when as a teenager, I could have gone down a darker path.

Instead, I managed to immerse myself in creative energy and stick to somewhat higher ground.

I am proud of how far I've come and how I am perceived by those who know me.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Paris: The place where Oscar films are made

Filmmakers take note. Forget Bucharest or Bratislava, setting your story in the City of Lights is still a surefire way to grab the Academy's attention

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Sure, weighty subject matter, literary pretension and a heavy hitter cast list can help to tip the scales in the right direction, but a real tell in the past 20 years bien sûr is the Academy's enduring love affair with the City of Lights. The allure of the world's most romantic cosmopolitan playground adds a certain ooh la la factor to films that is unequaled by any other European setting.

This destination bias toward films set in Paris is why Les Miserables (out Christmas day) is a surefire Oscar contender. The grandiloquent musical centering around Jean Valjean, a parole-breaking loaf thief on a redemptive quest, tugs at the heartstrings and even those who fail to get enveloped in the emotional rollercoaster cannot help but hum along to the charming choruses. Can't you just hear the critics toe tapping along to a rousing rendition of Do You Hear the People Sing? while tears stream down their cheeks by the second time "…when the beating of your heart echoes the beating of the drums" comes around.

Before you pshaw at the sentiment-stoking power that causes seasoned film goers to well up when they catch a mere glimpse of the Champs-Élysées or the river Seine, let's examine Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris. The entire movie plays out like a walking tour of the city.

Owen Wilson and his mishpokhe lodge at the five-star Hotel Le Bristol on the Rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré and patronize a gaggle of mainline tourist attractions from Monet's garden to Rodin's thinker statue where France's then first lady, the ravishingly beautiful Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, turns up for a cameo as a museum tour guide.

Table time is logged at famed eateries including the Crémerie-Restaurant Polidor, the brasserie where Wilson picks Ernest Hemingway's brain. Despite doubling as a two-hour advertisement for Paris' Convention and Visitors Bureau, the film's warm embrace of the romantic city of cute berets and crisp baguettes led to a quartet of Oscar nominations and a Woody win for best original screenplay.

Setting an identically plotted film in Bucharest or Bratislava instead might have intrigued certain cineastes, but the unfamiliarity might have engendered indifference in the hearts and minds of members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences when it came time to punch their ballots.

Imagine for a second if Moulin Rouge was set in a nightclub in 19th century Paris, Texas and the hit song that emerged from the movie featured the far less insouciant "lovely lady, lay with me tonight," lyric in lieu of "voulez vous couchez avec mois ce soir?" Those eight Oscar nominations would go poof.

Amélie, lavished with five Oscar nominations, is another flick where the setting overwhelms the senses, making viewers misty with Parisian wanderlust and wistful to try their own hand at skipping stones from the St. Martin canal. The camera fawns over the colourful shop fronts of Montmartre, imbuing the district with a fairy tale luster. In a particularly poignant scene shimmering with Paris ennui, Amélie aids a blind man in finding his way to the metro. While helping him along Lamarck Street, she paints a vivid picture of the bustling market ambience, offering a play-by-play description of the sights, sounds, and smells that Lonely Planet readers would drool over.

The awards voting crowd is even susceptible to visions of an animated Paris. Pixar's award gobbling Ratatouille makes the mouth water for sophisticated and authentic haute French cuisine like the movie's namesake eggplant dish. Then there's Scorsese's 3D children's movie Hugo, set in the Gare Montparnasse railway station with stunning views of snowflakes falling down on the La Tour Eiffel in the distance. The recipient of 11 Oscar nominations, Hugo leaves viewers longing to peruse antique shops in Paris in search of intricate French clockwork while contemplating the pioneering silent films of Georges Méliès.

Filmmakers angling to be walking on red carpets come award season might want to consider setting their next opus in the French capital.

Les Mis is sure to walk away with a few statuettes at the Oscars.
HANDOUT

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December 25
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December 26
Saturday schedule

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The Girls universe is expanding — to welcome a whole bunch of new boys

New season. Actress talks about the fervent following the HBO show has developed — and what's in store for next year

Girls will be girls, with a whole lot of challenges in the next season of Girls. DAVE ALLOCCA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girls co-star Allison Williams isn't surprised when strange women approach her, eager to reveal deeply personal stories.

After all, her HBO show's frank female point of view is full of painfully raw revelations from its four 20-something characters.

It's when men admit to feeling a kinship with the series that the comely brunette can be thrown off-guard — like recently when a Toronto fan displayed an intense affinity for her character's storyline.

"Just last night a guy was talking to me about the fact that he is a 'Charlie' and he's dating a 'Marnie' and he's learned a lot about how he may or may not be appealing or unappealing from watching the show," an incredulous Williams said during a recent visit to Toronto.

"And he made (his girlfriend) watch the show to get her opinion and I was like, 'That's such a Charlie thing to do.' To be like: 'There's a show. I think it's about us. I'd like you to watch it because I think it might explain why you don't like me as much as you should.'"

That Girls has inspired a diverse, fervent following is testament to creator Lena Dunham's provocative but real characters, says Williams, daughter of NBC news broadcaster Brian Williams.

"People feel very comfortable, they feel very close to us already, and I think it's because the show is so grounded in reality and it feels so accessible in that way. There isn't anything heightened about it, there's nothing make-believe."

The 26-year-old Dunham stars as the oft-misguided (and oft-naked) Hannah, a wannabe writer whose self-absorbed efforts to find a job and a boyfriend invariably lead to disastrously embarrassing results.

Jemima Kirke co-stars as the free-spirited Jessa while Zosia Mamet is the "virginy" Shoshanna. Williams' seemingly poised Marnie appeared to be the most put-together of the group, but began revealing some cracks towards the end of the first season.

"It's definitely a crossroads, it's definitely a moment of transition," Williams says as the series prepares to return with 10 more episodes in January.

"If the first season was about getting to know the girls and getting to know their world, the second season is about taking them out of their element, out of their comfort zone and really getting to know them on an individual basis a little bit deeper. And in Marnie's case particularly, getting to know her when the odds are kind of stacked against her."

In Season 1, Marnie had a job, lived with her best friend from college and had a loving boyfriend.

"None of those things are true in Season 2," Williams says.

"And that was really fun for me, because I've always thought she was more than just a gallery girl with a (best) friend who lives in an apartment. She feels very real to me and three-dimensional and you get to see her really be tested in the second season."

Williams says she's sworn to secrecy on most upcoming story details, but notes Hannah now lives with her gay ex-boyfriend Elijah while Marnie lives with Shoshanna.

Rita Wilson pops up in the first episode to play Marnie's mom and chances are good that sexy artist Booth Jonathan returns to tempt Marnie yet again.

It also appears that the Girls universe is expanding with burgeoning boy characters — there's the Shoshanna-obsessed Ray (Alex Karpovsky), the snarky Elijah (The New Normal's Andrew Rannells) and Hannah's quasi-boyfriend Adam (Adam Driver). Meanwhile, Jessa is now married to middle-aged businessman Thomas-John (Bridesmaids's Chris O'Dowd).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DVD

Girls: The Complete First Season, comes out on Blu-ray and DVD on Tuesday — well-timed to gear fans up for the Season 2 debut on HBO Canada on Jan. 13. Bonus features include gag reels, table reads, deleted scenes and cast interviews.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jumanji on the loose again

Children of the '90s, prepare to get more excited than is acceptable while reading a gossip page: Jumanji — the Robin Williams classic in which a jungle board game comes to life — is getting a reboot. Zach Helm has signed on to write the remake, which will get "an update for the present," according to the Hollywood Reporter.
We fear this means the kids get iPhones and anxiety complexes. But for now, let's assume it means wild corgis in designer safari hats.

Fox and Austin Green adapt to growing family

Megan Fox and husband Brian Austin Green are thrilled about the arrival of their two-month-old son, Noah, but not everyone in the household is so enthusiastic. "Kash is a little indifferent," Fox tells the Daily Mirror about her 10-year-old stepson, Kassius. "He's not experiencing any sort of jealousy or competitiveness, but he's not excited because he just wants to go play video games."

Zeta-Jones doesn't want to talk about bipolar

Catherine Zeta-Jones is starting to regret opening up about her 2011 hospitalization for bipolar disorder. "You know what? I'm sick of talking about it because I never wanted to be the poster child for this," she says in an interview with Good Morning America. "I never wanted this to come out publicly. It came out, and I dealt with it in the best way I could, and that was just saying, 'Hey, I'm bipolar.' Everyone has things going on and we deal with them the best we can.

The Word

Lindsay Lohan in the holiday spirit — and wanted too!

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Lindsay Lohan, bless her crazy little heart, is getting into the holiday spirit and playing Gossip Santa. Let's review her weekend, shall we?

On Friday, Linds was all smiles in the front row at New York City's Jingle Ball concert during The Wanted's performance. She's rumoured to be dating a member of the boy band, Max George, who more or less confirmed some aspect of some relationship: "We can stay out of trouble and keep her out of trouble," he tells PerezHilton.com. "She can party just as hard as us. She's a great girl."

All "great girl" comments aside, we've endorsed fiber breakfast bars more enthusiastically than that. And it seems like Lohan might be less happy than she's letting on for the cameras — from what Metro heard at the Jingle Ball, she was allegedly seen crying in a bathroom backstage. (Then again, who doesn't have a good cry at their boyfriend's holiday party?)

Not to pile it on, but yesterday TMZ reported that Lohan's finances are in such bad shape that she's struggling to pay the rent on her $8,000-per-month Beverly Hills mansion. Ever since the IRS seized her bank accounts, she's reportedly been hitting up friends for money.

Santa Lohan, at the risk of being greedy, we'd like to submit our Christmas list: One Aniston pregnancy announcement, one Jolie spite pregnancy announcement, two John Stamos rom coms and the Easy-Bake Ultimate Oven.

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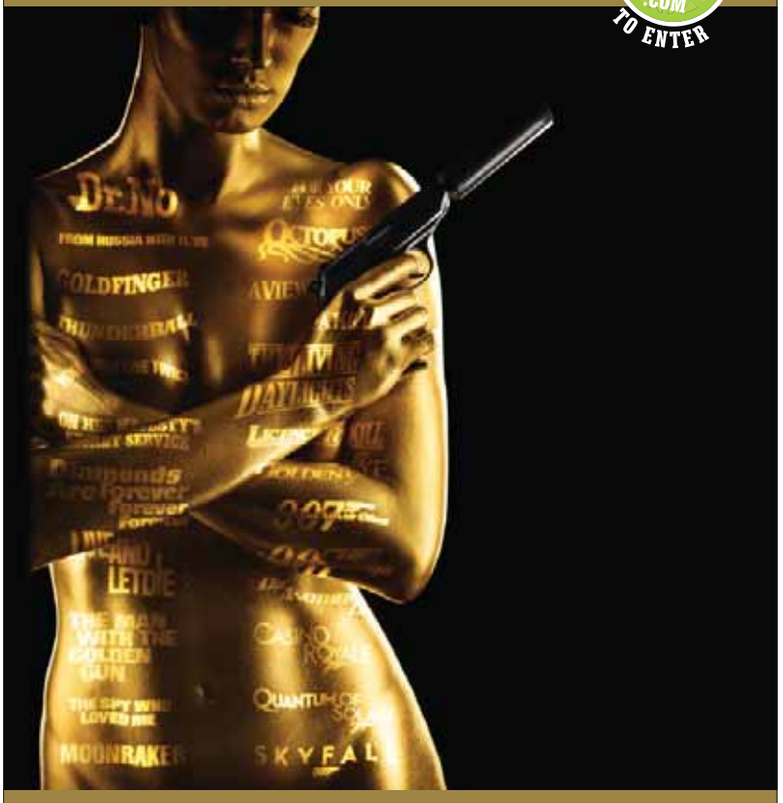

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Royal baby makes three

Kate and Will. With the Internet buzzing about the Duchess of Cambridge's pregnancy, Metro's family columnist weighs in

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

The announcement that royal couple Catherine and William are expecting their first child has many speculating how this baby and his or her famous parents will cope.

It can be hard for a normal, common family to adjust to family life. There are a few differences that spring immediately to mind when one thinks of a royal.

Like most new moms, much of Kate's hair will likely fall out during her first few postpartum months. However, unlike most new moms, she could potentially finance a small country with the money she would make by selling it on eBay.

Kate will have to decide what name goes best with the surname Wales.

Sadly, the name Hashtag has already been taken. Luckily, AtSign, DoubleBackSlash and Meme are all still available, should Kate and Will decide that Victoria, Elizabeth, George and Edward are too stuffy and old school.

Kate will have additional parenting challenges due to the fact that paradoxically her child, by virtue of being third in line for the throne, will technically be the boss of her.

Let the baby bump watch begin. Kate and Will are expecting their first child. ALASTAIR GRANT/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potty training days will bring new meaning to the term "sitting on the throne."

And while most babies are congratulated for speaking their first word, the first royal wave will also have to be rejoiced.

Come birthday time, likely Will Jr. asking for a pony will be a little redundant. But planning the party will be easy for Kate's side of the family, and uncle Harry's sure to be entertaining (and hopefully clothed).

For William, "Bring your child to work day," which doesn't typically happen until the child is 14, will need to be pre-planned now due to the security detail involved.

And there's really no point to Baby Wales taking daddy in for Career Day at school, as no other kid in the class will be able to aspire to have the "next in line for the throne" job.

Instead of sitting in line for hours to sign their child up for swimming lessons, Kate and Will will have to spend hours interviewing the royal swim instructor.

Likewise, the royal soccer coach, royal T-ball trainer and royal lice remover will also be interviewed.

Should their child get lice, they can force everyone around them to cut off their hair. This, history tells us, is a vast improvement over ordering a whole head to be cut off.

Good luck to you, Will and Kate. **KATHY BUCKWORTH IS AN AWARD WINNING WRITER. VISIT KATHYBUCKWORTH.COM OR FOLLOW KATHY ON TWITTER @KATHYBUCKWORTH**

The name game

Think you know what Will and Kate should call the future heir to the throne? Let us know at metronews.ca

Jewel on sparkling moments with son

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

On top of her professional obligations — she's a co-host and judge on Platinum Hit and the spokeswoman for Pampers Baby Dry diapers — Jewel is also a mom to her 18-month-old son Kase and a wife to Ty Murray, the professional bull rider.

But as you can tell from the following interview, her life is far from a rodeo.

If you could highlight just one beautiful moment with your son, what would it be?
The morning is my favourite time with my baby. I thought it was just me and Kase.

Special times

"One of my favourite morning moments is getting to read with him."

Jewel on sharing mommy-son moments with her 18-month-old son, Kase.

I just thought, "Wow, Kase is always in a great mood in the morning."

Then I talked to other moms and realized it's everyone's favourite time with their baby.

It's something kind of magical — they are just in a good mood and it's just fun to hang out with them.

One of my favourite morning moments is getting to read with him.

Speaking of books, can you tell us a little bit about yours?
I wrote That's What I'd Do for Kase while I was still pregnant.

I had written a children's record for him, too, called The Merry Goes 'Round, full of little things I wanted to teach him.

I try to use imaginative metaphors to show him all the ways I love him.

Jewel. GETTY IMAGES

Let it snow...

The Weather Network calls for snow, which means Mommy has to wrestle you into multiple layers, including an embarrassing reindeer sweater, or go stir crazy while hibernating inside. Follow along with the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood online with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices

Spice up Santa's cookies with Cinnamon-Honey Oat Drops

Looking for classic, comforting flavours in a chewy, soft cookie? This is it. The recipe takes a basic oat drop-style cookie and adds the comforting, holiday flavours of cinnamon and honey. These cookies beg to go with tea, hot cocoa or even milk left for Santa on Christmas Eve.

This recipe makes 36 cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon, divided
- 2 1/2 cups old fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In bowl, use electric mixer to beat butter, brown sugar, honey and vanilla. With mixer running, add eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl in between additions.

3. Stir in flour, baking soda, salt and 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon. Stir in the oats.

4. Scoop by tablespoonful onto the prepared baking sheets, leaving 2 inches between each cookie. Using slightly moistened hand, flatten cookies until 1/2 inch thick.

5. In bowl, stir granulated sugar and remaining 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon. Sprinkle lightly over the top of each cookie.

6. Bake 10 minutes, or until no longer glossy and just starting to turn golden brown at the edges. Let cool on pan 10 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool. Store in airtight container at room temperature for up to a week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Healthy eating

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Longing for summer? Wendy' treats are creamy, delicious and will instantly transport you to warmer times. But be warned, they contain an overload of calories and sugar.

Wendy's Caramel Frosty Shake (Large)

1,000 calories / 154 g sugar
This beverage contains three quarters of a woman's daily calories and four times the daily sugar amount.

Equivalent

One large Wendy's caramel Frosty Shake is equivalent in sugar to 12 Boston cream donuts from Tim Hortons. It's close to consuming 40 teaspoons of sugar. The caramel sauce has the excess calories, fat and sugar — not to mention the whipped cream.

Wendy's Vanilla Frosty (Large)

570 calories/ 81 g sugar
Having half the calories makes a better choice, but only once in a while. This is still too many beverage calories to consume.

Unique. Cardamom Chocolate Macadamia Cookies

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 10-oz package mini chocolate chips
- 2 cups chopped toasted macadamia nuts

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In bowl, use electric mixer to beat butter, oil, brown sugar, baking soda, salt and cardamom. Add eggs, one at a time, beating between additions.

3. Stir in flour then chocolate chips and macadamia nuts. Scoop dough by tablespoonful onto prepared baking sheets, leaving 2 inches between cookies. Bake for 10-12 mins., or until light golden brown around edges.

4. Let cool on pan for 10 mins., then transfer to rack to finish cooling. Store in airtight container at room temperature for up to a week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cash in on these hot career choices: Advice that you can take to the bank

Six for success. The working world is rough right now, but there are fields that can fill your wallet

YLVA VAN BUUREN
careerbear.com

Looking to make a lot of money fast? There are some jobs where the sky is the limit for income, says financial expert Lesley Scorgie.

Scorgie is the author of two books: Rich by Thirty: A Young Adult's Guide to Financial Success, and Rich by Forty: A Young Couple's Guide to Building Net Worth. Check out her list of moola-making jobs:

Commercial sales rep
A commercial sales representative is someone who sells a product or service for a company.

There are commercial sales reps in many different industries and the most lucrative include health care (pharmaceuticals), real estate and the financial industry (brokers and bankers). "Really, the more you sell, the more you make." In terms of training, many companies will pay for sales training.

Caveat: You've got to have a sales personality, or it will be a flop.

IT services
IT services is a discipline for managing information technology systems.

"Folks are redesigning systems to control financial activities. Governance and management of those systems is turning into lucrative business."

Caveat: These positions are about rebuilding ineffective systems.

Upstart entrepreneur
High risk entrepreneurial ideas that capture trends in some way can be quite lucrative, quite quickly, says Scorgie. "We see lots of examples in the gaming and APP development world right now."

Caveat: The key is captivating the hearts of people so the product becomes a smash hit.

Oil and gas industry job
This is a broad category with a technical side (engineering, geophysics, geology, etc.) and a business development side (where you would find new opportunities for the sector. Water and sustainability initiatives are popular right now). "These positions are generally higher incomes to start, and you progress quickly."

Caveat: People make money when times are good, so it's important to make sure there are benefit plans that include long-term incentives.

Agent
An agent is someone who is authorized to represent another individual (an entertainer or baseball player, for example) who usually makes a lot of money themselves.

The job entails negotiating contracts and terms, and having contacts in the industry.

Caveat: Financial success is usually tied into the sales side of things.

This job makes cents

Finance jobs

"Finance jobs that are paid by commission based on size of deals, research, customer relations, etc., can make you a lot of money fast," says Scorgie.

Caveat: Knowing your product is important.

Research budding industry and become a part of it. Check! ISTOCK

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- Career Bear is Canada's premier source for people who want a new career, but aren't sure where to start.
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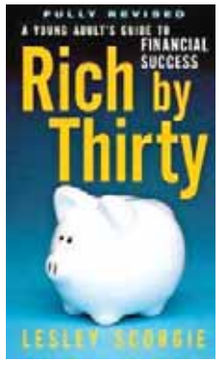

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The In-Credibility Factor

Name: Dr. Jonathan DellaVedova
City: Hamilton, ON
Age: 28
Occupation: Doctor specializing in pediatric medicine

THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

Dr. DellaVedova (or Dr. DVD as he's referred to by his young patients) always thought he'd be a teacher. On a whim he applied to medical school and has not looked back since. He is currently in his fourth and final year of residency in general pediatrics at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. In the summer of 2013, he will return to his home town of Sault St. Marie, where he has accepted a job as a community pediatrician.

I knew I was on my way when ... I attended my first delivery of a baby. I was a first year medical student and I was working with an obstetrician that was a total grouch. He let me catch the baby even though I had no clue what I was doing.

Dr. DellaVedova. PROVIDED

When that baby cried, I was so over the moon and I think I was more excited than the actual parents. I was so grateful to the doctor and the parents for letting me be a part of that moment. That's the feeling I try to remember when I get woken up a dozen times a night to attend deliveries and bring a new life into the world.

Do it for yourself, but do it for them, too
There's an enormous amount of commitment and effort that goes into medical training, but you can't get to the first day of medical school or the last day of residency alone. Your family raised you, your teachers taught you, your friends and your partner supported you on the days you were so overwhelmed and sleep deprived that you wanted to quit. The people in your life invest in you because they want to see you succeed, so make it happen.

Pay it forward
The more skills and qualifications you get, the more opportunities will pile up and the more you will find yourself saying, 'No'. But never turn down an audience with aspiring young people or an opportunity to teach. Some day they may be your doctor, nurse, mechanic or food safety inspector.

Get a grip
Working with sick children everyday has an incredible way of putting your problems into perspective and reminding you what is important in life. Yes, you will have to work hard, but enjoy every single moment, take nothing for granted and share the love.

Pour yourself into this backyard biz

Vineyard venture.
Do you have what it grapes to uncork a bold new career?

Wines and dimes

"It's less expensive to do grapes than traditional landscaping like shrubs and flowers from an investment viewpoint.

Tom Powers
Winemaker

Growing grapes can be a rewarding pursuit. They're appealing to the eye, pleasing to the palate, a profitable sideline and a reason for parties and neighbourhood togetherness. It's no wonder so many vineyards are cropping up in people's yards.

"The idea of having a landscape that produces something is one of the attractive issues," said Tom Powers, a winemaker who has designed and installed more than 100 small vineyards, mainly around the Alhambra Valley of Contra Costa County, Calif., near where he lives.

"The other thing is the lifestyle of being in wine country is attractive to people and they want to be a part of it."

Property owners often install vineyards when renovating unsightly or underutilized land, said Powers, author of The Organic Backyard Vineyard.

"It's less expensive to do grapes than traditional landscaping like shrubs and flowers from an investment viewpoint," he said. "The trade-out is that you have to put in more maintenance time."

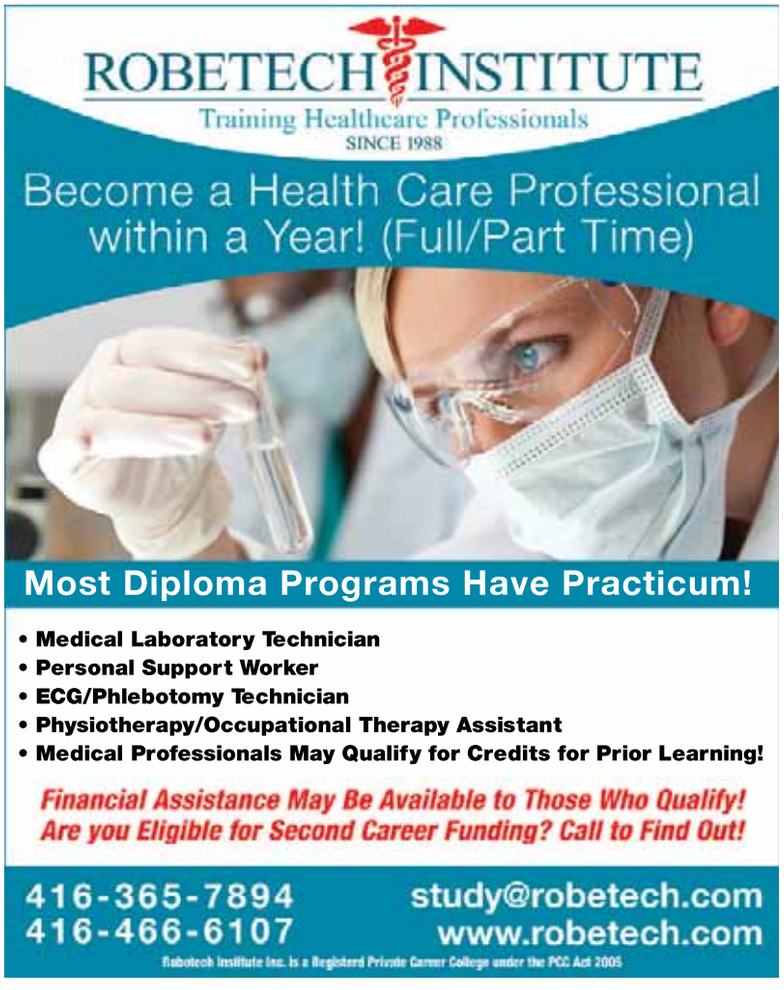
Make no mistake: Vineyards require attention. Rootstocks must be chosen, the soil prepared, trellises and fences built, vines pruned, canopy leaves thinned, nets strung to discourage predators, grape clusters harvested and processed. But the work can be worth it economically. Grape growers from New York to California profit by selling their crops to hobbyists or to wineries that don't have enough tonnage to meet production demands. Other growers, including those who grow table grapes, enjoy exceptional flavours from fruit seldom found in markets.

The small acreage required for a vineyard can generate surprisingly high earnings. "Up to $3,000 to $7,000 per acre in gross returns," according to the Upper Shore Regional Council in Chestertown, Md.

Grapes also are a smart environmental choice given their modest water and fertilizer requirements, plus low soil runoff, the council said. It doesn't take many vines to start a rewarding grape-growing venture. "A 100-foot row of vines can yield up to 175 bottles of wine," Powers said. "With a one-acre vineyard, you could make more than 5,000 bottles."

A mild climate is not required for growing grapes. Many varieties can be grown anywhere there is an ample amount of sun and an abundance of nutrient-rich, well-drained soil.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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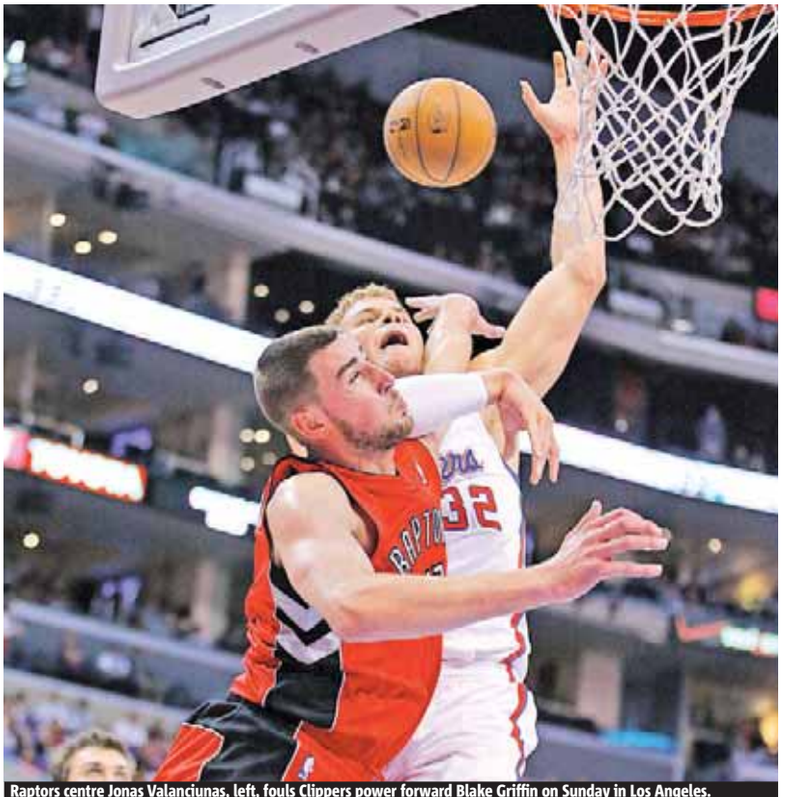
Clippers' backups a cut above Raptors

NBA. L.A. bench outscores Dinos 25-10 in 4th quarter as Toronto's woeful season gets even worse



Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas, left, fouls Clippers power forward Blake Griffin on Sunday in Los Angeles. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Los Angeles Clippers were lacking energy through three quarters. Their backups came in and changed the game again.

Jamal Crawford led a fourth-quarter rally by the reserves with 16 points and the Clippers defeated Toronto 102-83 on Sunday to win their sixth in a row while handing the Raptors their 10th consecutive road loss.

The backups gave Los Angeles its first double-digit lead of the game after Toronto kept it close through the first three periods before dropping its fourth straight and 10th in its last 11. The Raptors have just four wins this season.

Toronto's DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points in his hometown. Linas Kleiza, who started in place of the injured Mickael Pietrus, added 17 points, including five three-pointers. Amir Johnson had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

"It came out of nowhere," DeRozan said of the Clippers' surge. "We just didn't score and we couldn't get any stops, and they took advantage of it. They're the deepest team in the league. They've got a lot of talented players that are capable of being starters in this league. They don't go outside their element and try to do too much."

Eric Bledsoe added 14 points on his 23rd birthday to help the Clippers' reserves outscore their counterparts 47-24.

Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 19 points. Chris Paul added 16 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds. Caron Butler was the only starter to play in the fourth, coming in only after Matt Barnes was ejected with 1:36 to play.

Los Angeles' reserves dominated the final period for the third straight game, turning Griffin and Paul into cheerleaders.

"As long as I've been in the league, through 20 games I've never played this least amount of minutes," Paul said. "I should have no arguments about being tired. I'm also enjoying cheering on guys out there playing. We like to see each other succeed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"They locked in on defence and we stopped moving the ball from side to side, which was the key for us in the first three quarters."

Raptors forward Andrea Bargnani, who scored 12 points on 5-for-15 shooting on Sunday.

MLB

Phillies pick up all-star Young

The Philadelphia Phillies have acquired seven-time all-star infielder Michael Young from the Texas Rangers for two relief pitchers.

The deal was announced Sunday, a day after Young agreed to waive his no-trade clause. The Phillies are sending right-hander Josh Lindblom and minor league righty Lisalverto Bonilla to the Rangers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL lockout

Hockey talks may resume this week

The NHL and the locked-out players' association are talking again, and a return to the bargaining table could happen soon.

After a few days to cool off following an epic collapse in negotiations, the sides have been in touch in an attempt to restart conversations that could save the season.

"Trying to set up something for this week, but nothing finalized yet," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly wrote Sunday in an email to The Associated Press.

Negotiations broke down Thursday night after three straight days of talks in New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHL

"They're not in first place by accident."

Toronto Marlies head coach Dallas Eakins after his club's 3-2 loss to the Rochester Americans in a key matchup at Ricoh Coliseum on Sunday. The game featured the top two teams in the AHL's North Division as Abbotsford (14-4-5) padded its lead on second-place Toronto (13-9-1).

Cowboys gut out win after latest NFL tragedy

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo leaves the field after the Cowboys beat the Bengals 20-19 on Sunday in Cincinnati. MICHAEL KEATING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Numb. Grieving. Distracted. The Cowboys were all those things on Sunday, dealing with the death of one teammate and the tribulations of another.

Winners, too, though they hardly felt like it.

Dan Bailey kicked a 40-yard field goal as time ran out, sending the Cowboys to a 20-19 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that ended a tough afternoon with a little bit of relief and their playoff chances enhanced.

"It's a hard, hard situation we're in," quarterback Tony Romo said. "There's no playbook for this sort of thing in life."

Quoted

"I don't remember crying this much other than maybe the day I was born."

Cowboys defensive lineman Marcus Spears on the emotional toll of playing after the death of one teammate and the arrest of another following an auto accident.

The Cowboys overcame a nine-point deficit in the closing minutes behind Romo, who held his hand over his heart during a moment of silence to honour teammate Jerry Brown before the kickoff. The linebacker died in an auto accident early Saturday.

Defensive lineman Josh Brent, who was driving, was still jailed in Texas on Sunday, charged with intoxication manslaughter.

The Cowboys learned about Brown's death on their flight to Cincinnati on Saturday.

It was the second consecutive week that an NFL team was playing a day after losing a teammate. Kansas City beat Carolina 27-21 one day after linebacker Jovan Belcher shot his girlfriend at their home before driving to the Chiefs' practice complex and shooting himself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Ferdinand targeted as Manchester derby turns ugly

Crowd disorder marred the Premier League's Manchester derby on Sunday, with United defender Rio Ferdinand injured after being struck by a coin, and police arresting a spectator for racist chanting.

In a volatile end to the match at City's Etihad Stadium, where Robin Van Persie clinched a 3-2 win for United, Ferdinand was left bleeding from a cut above his left eye.

City said the club will assist police with its investigation into "the throwing of missiles" and trouble between both sets of fans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand celebrates at the end of Sunday's match. GETTY IMAGES

Soccer

Mueller's record eighty-sixed by Messi

Lionel Messi broke German great Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old record for most goals in a year by scoring for the 86th time in 2012 on Sunday.

The Argentinian forward scored twice to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 win at Real Betis in the Spanish league match.

Lionel Messi GETTY IMAGES

His first was an individual effort in the 16th minute to equal Mueller's mark, and he eclipsed the 1972 milestone with a familiar left-footed finish nine minutes later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boxing

"I was just starting to feel confident and then I got careless."

Manny Pacquiao, who was knocked out cold by Juan Manuel Marquez with a vicious right hand in the sixth round of Saturday night's match, putting a ferocious end to the fourth fight between the two.

MacDonald keeps next-big-thing status intact with win over Penn

Rory MacDonald, left, attacks B.J. Penn on Saturday night at KeyArena in Seattle. GREGORY PAYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA. Kelowna, B.C., fighter takes another step on UFC mission, leaving a legend in wake

In the second round, Rory MacDonald reared back and buried a punch in B.J. Penn's side — as if looking to embed a treat in a ball of dough.

The 33-year-old Hawaiian grimaced and turned away. For a moment, it seemed like he might call it a night. But Penn kept fighting. And the beating continued.

MacDonald showed his championship credentials in a unanimous (30-26, 30-26, 30-27) decision over Penn, a former lightweight and welterweight title-holder. In so doing, he literally treated the future hall of famer as a punching bag.

Still, the young Canadian rued not stopping Penn earlier.

"It's bittersweet because the job wasn't finished," he said later. "But that's just my outlook to fighting."

MacDonald's approach to mixed martial arts involves hurting people.

"When I look across the Octagon at somebody, it's just another body to me. Legend or not. I'm going in there to hurt him," the 23-year-old said Saturday night.

Job done, as a battered Penn was sent to hospital afterwards.

"At the end of the day, his main focus in that fight was to damage B.J. Penn," said friend and training partner Mike Ricci.

"He's not there to win rounds. He wins them because he does so much damage. He's not there to play the game and score points and fight these strategic fights."

The fight at Seattle's KeyArena was third on the bill but had a main-event feel.

MacDonald was the villain of the piece, booed as the stone-faced fighter walked to the cage. The catcalls turned to wild cheers as Penn followed.

The atmosphere was electric. The fight that followed was one-sided.

According to FightMetric, MacDonald had 57 significant strikes to just seven for Penn in the second round. Overall the total was 116-24 in the Canadian's favour. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"He goes out there, he keeps his game plan extremely simple and just tries to hurt his opponent."

Mike Ricci on the fighting style of his friend and training partner Rory MacDonald.

Next up for MacDonald?

Rory MacDonald (14-1) has now won four straight and is 5-1 in the UFC.

- After introducing himself as a title contender Saturday, he now has set his sights next on Carlos Condit, who handed him his only loss in June 2010.

NFL. Bradford pushes Rams past Bills with late touchdown pass in Buffalo

Unbeaten in their division, Sam Bradford and the St. Louis Rams are starting to show they can win anywhere — including cold and wet Buffalo — to stay in the playoff race.

Bradford capped a 14-play, 84-yard drive with a 13-yard pass to Brandon Gibson with 48 seconds left in a 15-12 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

"I think it says a lot about the maturity of the team," Bradford said. "I think this team grew up a little bit more today."

Bradford, the 2010 No. 1 draft pick, enjoyed his second consecutive fourth-quarter comeback victory after rallying the Rams to a 16-13 overtime win over San Francisco last weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Louis Rams wide receiver Brandon Gibson, left, celebrates after scoring a touchdown in front of Bills cornerback Ron Brooks on Sunday in Buffalo. BILL WIPPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Six to watch in Russia

Injuries and the potential end to the NHL lockout might change a few things, but the depth and talent level of players invited to training camps for the world junior championship is breathtaking. Here's a look at some of the most intriguing players expected to star in Ufa, Russia, when the tournament begins Dec. 26.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Photos by Getty Images/Metro

1 Nail Yakupov, Russia

The No. 1 overall pick of the 2012 draft (to Edmonton) gets a chance to shine on the international stage after starring for his hometown team — Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk — of the KHL. Through 19 games this season, Yakupov has 10 goals and eight assists.

2 Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Canada

If a shoulder injury and the NHL don't get in the way, the No. 1 overall pick of the 2011 draft (to Edmonton) will get a taste of playing against a future teammate. The missing link in his impressive hockey resumé is an appearance at this tournament.

3 Nathan MacKinnon, Canada

What's this? A product of Cole Harbour, N.S., has a chance to go No. 1 in the draft next year? MacKinnon won't play centre — his natural position — but he will get a chance to show scouts his versatility by playing wing. He had five goals and six assists playing within his age group at the Ivan Hlinka tournament in the summer.

4 Seth Jones, United States

The Portland Winterhawks blue-liner is another potential first-overall pick in the next NHL draft and will go head-to-head for scouts' attention playing against MacKinnon and Team Canada in the same side of the draw. He's the son of former NBA player Popeye Jones.

5 Aleksander Barkov Jr., Finland

If there's a European out there who could challenge MacKinnon and Jones for the top spot in the draft, it's Barkov, the son of a former Russian hockey player. Barkov returns to Team Finland as the leading scorer for Tappara Tampere of the Finnish top division. At 16 years, four months last year, he became the second-youngest player ever to score at the world juniors.

6 Morgan Rielly, Canada

The Maple Leafs blue-line prospect (No. 5 in the 2012 draft) wears No. 4 in Moose Jaw and plays a bit like that other famous No. 4. That is to say, he plays all over the ice. At this tournament, his strength will be his skating, and he's got to rein in his free spirit.

ADVERTISEMENT

Avoiding Common Insurance Mistakes

Costly errors that affect insurance rates.

The cost of car insurance is a major expense for most people, and rising rates often seem unavoidable. But an increase in your premium is not always something you can't avoid. Often, simple errors lead to over-paying for insurance. These eight mistakes are the quickest way to see higher premiums.

Earning a traffic ticket. Tickets are one of the most common reasons that insurance rates go up. Many different traffic violations can be responsible for an increase. Speeding, running right lights and careless driving are all violations that result in insurance rates that are higher. It takes three years before the ticket is removed from your driving record.

Not shopping for rates before you buy a new car. People often find themselves shocked by the cost of insurance on their new car, but there's a way to avoid that. Every car comes with a different insurance rating, and some are pricier than others to insure. When you're considering options, get car insurance quotes on each possibility before you make a buying decision.

Failure to shop around at regular intervals. Many people avoid it because they believe it's a hassle, or think they can't get a better rate. This is one expensive mistake. People who take the time to shop around almost always pay less; and with internet quoting sites like InsuranceHotline.com, it's easier than ever.

Failing to take advantage of multi-policy discounts. What do your home, life, and auto insurance have to do with each other? Well, if you insure them all in the same place, it could be quite a lot – of savings that is. Most insurance companies offer a multi-policy discount. If you don't have all of your policies in the same place, you could be missing out on some big savings on all of your policies.

Remember that the very best way to keep your insurance premiums low is to be a safe driver and shop around for better rates. Insurance quoting sites like InsuranceHotline.com can help by comparing your insurance rate against over 30 car insurance companies to find you a lower rate available for your driving profile.

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	5	.737	—
Miami	13	5	.722	1
Atlanta	12	5	.706	1½
Chicago	11	8	.579	3½
Brooklyn	11	8	.579	3½
Philadelphia	11	9	.550	4
Boston	11	9	.550	4
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	4½
Indiana	10	11	.476	5½
Charlotte	7	12	.368	7½
Orlando	7	12	.368	7½
Detroit	7	15	.318	9
Cleveland	4	17	.190	11½
Toronto	**4**	**17**	**.190**	**11½**
Washington	2	15	.118	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	—
Memphis	14	4	.778	1½
L.A. Clippers	14	6	.700	2½
Golden State	13	7	.650	3½
Utah	11	10	.524	6
Minnesota	9	9	.500	6½
Dallas	10	10	.500	6½
Denver	10	11	.476	7
Houston	9	10	.474	7
L.A. Lakers	9	11	.450	7½
Portland	8	12	.400	8½
Sacramento	7	12	.368	9
Phoenix	7	14	.333	10
New Orleans	5	14	.263	11

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Sunday's results
L.A. Clippers 102 **Toronto 83**
Milwaukee 97 Brooklyn 88
Oklahoma City 104 Indiana 93
New York 112 Denver 106
Orlando at Phoenix
Utah at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's results
L.A. Clippers 117 Phoenix 99
Golden State 101 Washington 97
San Antonio 132 Charlotte 102
Miami 106 New Orleans 90
Boston 92 Philadelphia 79
Detroit 104 Cleveland 97
Atlanta 93 Memphis 83
Chicago 93 New York 85
Dallas 116 Houston 109
Sacramento 99 Portland 80

Monday's games — All Times Eastern
Golden State at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.

Tuesday's games
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
Denver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12
Brooklyn at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

CLIPPERS 102, RAPTORS 83

At Los Angeles

TORONTO (83)
DeRozan 10-17 3-4 24, Kleiza 5-11 2-3 17, Bargnani 5-15 0-0 12, Johnson 4-7 3-4 11, Davis 2-6 2-2 6, Calderon 1-5 2-2 5, Lowry 2-6 0-0 4, Ross 1-7 0-0 3, Valanciunas 0-3 1-2 1. Totals 30-77 13-17 83.

L.A. CLIPPERS (102)
Griffin 7-11 5-6 19, Crawford 4-14 6-8 16, Paul 5-10 5-5 16, Bledsoe 6-9 1-2 14, Butler 4-9 0-0 9, Barnes 2-5 2-2 7, Jordan 1-7 5-11 7, Turiaf 3-4 0-0 6, Green 2-4 0-0 4, Odom 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 36-79 24-34 102.

Toronto	21	26	26	10 — 83
L.A. Clippers	25	19	33	25 —102

3-Point Goals—Toronto 10-26 (Kleiza 5-6, Ross 1-6, Bargnani 2-5, Calderon 1-3, Lowry 0-3, DeRozan 1-2, Valanciunas 0-1). L.A. Clippers 6-19 (Crawford 2-5, Odom 0-4, Barnes 1-3, Bledsoe 1-2, Butler 1-2, Paul 1-2, Green 0-1). **Rebounds—**Toronto 39 (Johnson 12, Lowry 6, DeRozan 5, Calderon 3, Kleiza 3, Davis 3, Valanciunas 3, Bargnani 2, Ross 2). L.A. Clippers 45 (Jordan 10, Griffin 9, Odom 5, Turiaf 4, Barnes 4, Bledsoe 4, Green 3, Crawford 2, Butler 2, Paul 2). **Assists—**Toronto 22 (Lowry 9). L.A. Clippers 21 (Bledsoe 6). **Total Fouls—**Toronto 22, L.A. Clippers 17.
Attendance—19,060. T—2:15

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE
Yesterday's results
Manchester United 3 Manchester City 2
Everton 2 Tottenham 1
Liverpool 3 West Ham 2

FRANCE

LIGUE 1
Yesterday's results
Reims 0 Bordeaux 0
Lorient 3 Marseille 0
Lyon 1 Saint-Etienne 0

GERMANY

BUNDESLIGA
Yesterday's results
Moenchengladbach 2 Mainz 0
Hannover 3 Bayer Leverkusen 2

ITALY

SERIE A
Yesterday's results
Chievo 2 Cagliari 0
Juventus 1 Palermo 0
Pescara 2 Genoa 0
Catania 3 Siena 1
AC Milan 4 Torino 2
Inter Milan 2 Napoli 1

SPAIN

LA LIGA
Yesterday's results
Levante 4 Mallorca 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 Celta Vigo 0
Atletico Madrid 6 Deportivo La Coruna 0
Barcelona 2 Real Betis 1

GOLF

PGA — FRANKLIN TEMPLETON SHOOTOUT

At Naples, Fla.
Par 72
Final (Scramble)

S.O'Hair/K.Perry	64-61-60—185
C.Howell III/R.Sabbatin	66-63-57—186
J.Dufner/V.Singh	66-63-59—188
J.Kelly/S.Stricke	68-63-58—189
S.Cink/C.Pettersson	67-62-60—189
D.Love III/B.Snedeker	62-65-62—189
K.Bradley/B.Steele	67-64-60—191
D.Johnson/I.Poulter	67-65-59—191
B.Cauley/R.Fowler	66-67-63—196
J.Leonard/S.Verplank	70-67-63—200
F.Jacobson/G.Norman	72-68-63—203
M.Calcavecchia/**M.Weir**	70-71-65—206

THAILAND GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

At Chon Buri, Thailand
Par 72
Final

Charl Schwartzel	65-65-68-65—263
Bubba Watson	68-70-71-65—274
T.Chuayprakong	66-67-71-70—274
Sergio Garcia	69-69-68-70—276
Park Hyun-bin	68-74-67-68—277
Simon Dyson	72-71-67-68—278
Prom Meesawat	69-72-70-67—278
Daniel Chopra	67-67-69-75—278
Ryo Ishikawa	70-66-73-70—279
Lee Westwood	70-69-70-70—279
Jonathan Moore	73-72-67-67—279
Nicholas Colsaerts	72-67-70-71—280
Anirban Lahari	70-69-70-71—280
Thongchai Jaidee	69-71-72-69—281
Darren Beck	69-70-72-70—281

LPGA — DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Par 72
Final

Shanshan Feng	66-65-67-69—267
D.Claire Schreefel	69-71-63-69—272
Becky Brewerton	70-73-68-65—276
Caroline Masson	68-68-69-71—276
Lorie Kane	**68-70-68-71—277**
Gwladys Nocera	68-68-68-73—277
Cindy Lacrosse	67-69-69-72—277
Line Vedel	69-72-68-69—278
Felicity Johnson	68-67-72-71—278
Veronica Zorzi	71-73-67-68—279
Holly Aitchison	70-72-66-71—279
Carlota Ciganda	70-68-73-68—279
Caroline Hedwall	69-71-67-72—279
Lexi Thompson	69-68-72-70—279
Nontaya Srisawang	68-73-68-70—279

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	23	12	8	1	2	65	70	27
Providence	22	12	8	0	2	53	61	26
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25
Portland	23	11	10	1	1	72	78	24
St. John's	24	11	12	0	1	58	69	23

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32
Bridgeport	23	11	11	0	1	72	79	23
Connecticut	23	10	11	2	0	69	82	22
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21
Albany	20	7	8	0	5	44	53	19

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	23	14	6	1	2	84	67	31
Binghamton	20	13	5	1	1	64	48	28
W-B/Scranton	22	13	7	1	1	65	55	28
Hershey	24	11	12	1	0	64	70	23
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	23	14	4	3	2	61	45	33
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27
Lake Erie	24	12	10	1	1	74	77	26
Rochester	21	10	9	2	0	69	64	22
Hamilton	20	8	10	1	1	42	64	18

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27
Milwaukee	22	10	9	2	1	63	67	23
Chicago	22	10	9	2	1	58	66	23
Peoria	23	8	11	2	2	53	80	20

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	24	13	9	0	2	79	70	28
Houston	22	12	7	1	2	71	63	27
Texas	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27
Oklahoma City	22	11	8	1	2	71	66	25
San Antonio	24	10	11	0	3	65	70	23

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.

Sunday's results
Bridgeport 7 Syracuse 2
Worcester 3 Manchester 2
Albany 1 Connecticut 0
Milwaukee 5 Charlotte 2
Abbotsford 3 Toronto 2
Grand Rapids 4 Rockford 2
Providence 3 (OT) Adirondack 2
San Antonio 3 Oklahoma City 2
Peoria 3 Houston 2

Saturday's results
Albany 3 Bridgeport 1
Springfield 4 St. John's 2
Hamilton 3 Hershey 2
Adirondack 4 Syracuse 3 (SO)
Manchester 9 Connecticut 2
Providence 3 Worcester 2 (SO)
Toronto 4 Rochester 3
Portland 4 W-B/Scranton 3 (SO)
Norfolk 3 Binghamton 1
Texas 4 Peoria 1
San Antonio 4 Oklahoma City 3
Chicago 2 Rockford 1

Tuesday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Houston, 12:05 p.m.
Hershey at St. John's, 6 p.m.
Bridgeport at Portland, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Abbotsford at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Lake Erie at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Peoria at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	430	260
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	245	306
Miami	5	8	0	.385	240	276
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	289	352

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	11	1	0	.917	351	221
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	329
Tennessee	4	9	0	.308	271	386
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	216	359

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	331	273
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	321	280
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	259	272

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	10	3	0	.769	375	257
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	292	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	248	402
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	195	352

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	5	0	.615	373	270
Washington	7	6	0	.538	343	329
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	300	314
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	240	341

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	337	259
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	354	308
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	348	379
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	265	312

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	296	259
Chicago	8	5	0	.615	308	219
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	283	286
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	300	315

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	3	1	.731	316	184
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	300	202
St. Louis	6	6	1	.500	236	279
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	186	292

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 14

Sunday's results
St. Louis 15 Buffalo 12
Dallas 20 Cincinnati 19
Washington 31 Baltimore 28
San Diego 34 Pittsburgh 24
Cleveland 30 Kansas City 7
N.Y. Jets 17 Jacksonville 10
Philadelphia 23 Tampa Bay 21
Indianapolis 27 Tennessee 23
Minnesota 21 Chicago 14
Carolina 30 Atlanta 20
San Francisco 27 Miami 13
N.Y. Giants 52 New Orleans 27
Seattle 58 Arizona 0
Detroit at Green Bay

Monday, December 10 — All Times Eastern
Houston at New England, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 15

Thursday's game
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday's games
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

SEATTLE MARINERS — Designated LHP Mauricio Robles for assignment.

TEXAS RANGERS — Traded INF Michael Young to Philadelphia for RHP Josh Lindblom and RHP Lisalverto Bonilla.

NBA

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS — Waived G Cory Higgins. Called up F Jeff Adrien from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS — Recalled G Will Barton and F Victor Claver from Idaho (NBADL).

NFL

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed T Nate Menkin on injured reserve. Signed LB Ryan Rau from the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released QB Brian Hoyer. Signed DB Josh Victorian from the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS —Released OT Derek Hardman. Signed DE Lazarius Levingston from the practice squad.

SKIING

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM

At St. Moritz, Switzerland
1. Tina Maze, Slovenia, two minutes, 11.07 seconds; 2. Viktoria Rebensburg, Germany, 2:11.15; 3. Tessa Worley, France, 2:11.62; 4. Lara Gut, Switzerland, 2:12.13; 5. Marlies Schild, Austria, 2:13.35; 6. Kathrin Zettel, Austria, 2:13.39; 7 (tie). Michaela Kirchgasser, Austria; Irene Curtoni, Italy, 2:13.57; 9. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 2:13.80; 10. Dominique Gisin, Switzerland, 2:13.94. 11. Frida Hansdotter, Sweden, 2:14.13; **12. Marie-Michele Gagnon, Lac-Etchemin, Que., 2:14.24; 13.** Denise Karbon, Italy, 2:14.39; 14. Stefanie Koehle, Austria, 2:14.71; 15. Ana Drev, Slovenia, 2:14.72; 16. Elena Curtoni, Italy, 2:14.84; 17. Lena Duerr, Germany, 2:15.05; 18 (tie). Veronika Staber, Germany; Eva-Maria Brem, Austria, 2:15.06; 20. Manuela Moelgg, Italy, 2:15.24. 21. Lisa Magdalena Agerer, Italy; Julia Mancuso, U.S., 2:15.27; 23. Veronique Hronek, Germany, 2:15.30; 23. Jessica Lindell-Vikarby, Sweden, 2:15.30; 25. Tanja Poutiainen, Finland, 2:15.51; 26. Nadia Fanchini, Italy, 2:15.66; 27. Lindsey Vonn, U.S., 2:16.92.

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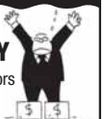

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Scarborough

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Stay focused on your long-term ambitions this week. Ignore all those interesting but unproductive activities that eat into your time and energy but bring no return. What is your number one goal? Go straight for it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
An upheaval or setback that took place last week may have knocked you out of your stride a bit but you will soon recover. Taurus is a wonderfully resilient sign and you will easily outlast those who oppose you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is a heightened sense of urgency about your activities now and that's good because a lot will happen over the next few days and you will have to move fast to keep up with events. Better still, get ahead of them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The best way to further your aims is to help partners and colleagues further their own. The more you help other people now the more they will help you later in the week. You can't do it all on your own.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get serious about certain issues over the next few days. You have been a bit too easygoing of late and some people are beginning to think you cannot be trusted. Go out of your way to prove them wrong.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Make sure you get plenty of rest today because you are going to be very busy come Wednesday and Thursday. You don't have to start the week at a run: start slowly and build up to a pace you feel comfortable with.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The planets want you to go out and have fun. The planets want to see you enjoy yourself. At this time of year the Sun in the daring sign of Sagittarius gives you the perfect excuse – not that you really need one.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Some kind of breakthrough is on the cards for the next few days, most likely of a financial nature. You may have to give up one thing to gain another but on balance you will come out on top in the deal.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will get the chance to do something different today, something out of the ordinary and maybe even a bit outrageous. You enjoy seeing how far you can push your luck, so push away.

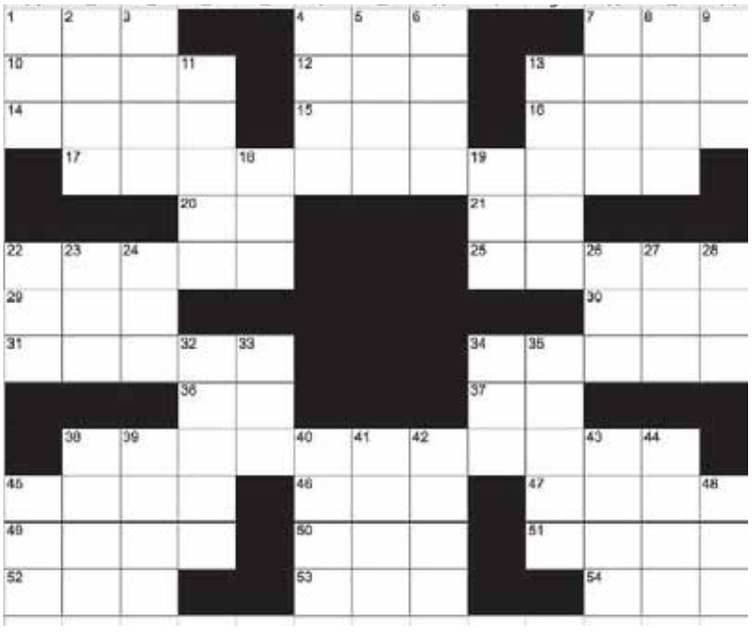
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make a list of all the things you would like to change in your life, because you will soon get the opportunity to make them happen. Even if you like things pretty much as they are some things can still be better.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What you most need to realize today is that if you think lucky you are more likely to be lucky. That's not new age mumbo-jumbo: like attracts like and a positive attitude really does make good things happen.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not understand why a friend or family member is behaving the way they are but if you are wise you will let them get on with it. The planets suggest it's no big deal – they're just being a bit "anti". Hopefully, those limitations will have taught you the importance of timing. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

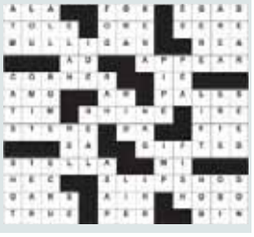
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Good Morning America's — Champion
4. Comic Margaret —
7. The — Fi Channel
10. Vocal
12. Sleep stage (abbr.)
13. Pinto or lima
14. Actress Bonet of The Cosby Show
15. Boxer called "The Greatest"
16. Hard knocks
17. Pretenses
20. — Elsewhere
21. Former talk show host (init.)
22. South Pacific nation
25. Frasier's dog
29. Three, in Rome
30. Egg cells
31. Path
34. Fictional rabbit
36. Compass pt.
37. Dorothy's aunt
38. Reception, e.g.
45. Great review
46. Soak flax
47. Easy gait
49. Enable, as a felon
50. Family card game
51. Dry
52. Heavy weight
53. Magnum, P.I. actor Selleck
54. Medical suffix

Down
1. Sun God
2. Operatic solo
3. Wad
4. Stuff
5. Second Beatles film
6. Leave off
7. Actor Penn
8. Hats
9. — and outs
11. Noose
13. Group of chicks
18. Actress Hagen
19. Fury
22. Take a rest
23. The Fresh Prince of Bel —
24. Soccer great Hamm
26. Speck
27. — Got a Secret
28. Elephant's floppy feature
32. Small bay
33. Majors of The Six Million Dollar Man
34. Teacher's favourite
35. Spews
38. — San Lucas
39. Tied score
40. Dry
41. House do-over (abbr.)
42. Proton
43. Sandwich cookie
44. Warmed the barstool on Cheers
45. Informer
48. The Naked Truth actress Leoni

Yesterday's Crossword



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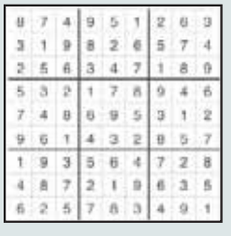
4		9				5		3
	5	2	3		1	6	8	
3								4
			8		5			
	7			2			5	
			4		9			
1								8
	2	5	1		7	3	4	
6		7				2		5

Yesterday's Sudoku



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